TUESDAY
September 17, 2024

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GUJARAT ENERGY SUMMIT

India is the best bet of 21st century: Modi

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RAIN LASHES BENGAL

18 fishermen, 1 trawler go missing at sea

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SYSTEM UPDATE PENDING

Onions worth lakhs stuck at borders, ports

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INDIA'S ROLE

Military export to Israel — aiding genocide

Where court failed in issue of foreign policy

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HARMANPREET SHINES

India cruises past Korea, meets China

SPORT » PAGE 15

Campaign concludes for first phase of polls in J&K

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Campaigning ended on Monday for the first phase of the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly election, in which the stakes are high for the Peoples Democratic Party and the National Conference. Besides the traditional rivals, the electoral battle features the BJP, Congress, CPI(M), and Independents backed by the banned Jamaat-e-Islami and the Jammu and Kashmir Awami Ittehad Party, led by Sheikh Abdul Rashid, MP, also known as Engineer Rashid, who is out on bail.

All the 16 segments of Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian and Kulgam in south Kashmir, which the PDP considers its bastion, will go to the polls in this phase.

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Mamata drops officials, asks doctors to join duty

Protesters' representative says disagreement remains on a few more points; negotiations went on from 6 p.m. to midnight after doctors gave up their demand for live-streaming the proceedings

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

After a meeting with protesting doctors on Monday, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced that as demanded by them, Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Kumar Goyal, the Deputy Commissioner of Kolkata Police, North, and two senior officials of Health Department would be replaced.

"We have agreed to remove the Director of Health Services and Director of Medical College. After the demand of doctors, the Commissioner of Kolkata Police has decided to step aside pending investigation," Ms. Banerjee said. Stating that the talks were positive, she urged the doctors to return to work.

Prolonged protest: Junior doctors continue the protest in front of Swasthya Bhavan in Kolkata on Monday. PTI

She also said that no action would be taken against those who had participated in the protests over the past few weeks.

The minutes signed by both parties said, "As regards their demands relating to action against Kolkata Police, the CP Kolkata Police and DC North will be transferred. As regards the health manpower, the present DME and DHS will be transferred."

"On certain points, we reached an agreement, but disagreement remains on other points," a representative of the doctors said.

Ms. Banerjee said the memorandum was signed by 42 representatives on the doctors' side and Chief Secretary Manoj Pant on the part of the State government.

The meeting started at 6 p.m. and lasted for almost four hours; the doctors emerged from the Chief Minister's residence just a few minutes before midnight.

The meeting came after four earlier attempts failed over the doctors' demands for live-streaming and video recording of the discussions.

While the doctors gave up the demand of video recording, the State government allowed them to bring along a couple of stenographers to the meeting with the Chief Minister.

CONTINUED ON
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Kejriwal all set to resign, AAP to pick new CM today

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal is scheduled to meet Lieutenant-Governor V.K. Saxena at 4 p.m. on Tuesday to tender his resignation, paving the way for the appointment of a new Chief Minister.

Even as Aam Aadmi Party leaders have remained tight-lipped, there has been considerable speculation over who would take over as Chief Minister for the remainder of the government's tenure. Prior to the meeting, all AAP legislators are scheduled to gather at 11.30 a.m. to decide on the candidate.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia called on Mr. Kejriwal to discuss potential candidates, after which the party's political affairs committee (PAC) gathered for discussions.

Manish Sisodia arrives at Arvind Kejriwal's residence in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

"Today, he [Mr. Kejriwal] called a meeting of the PAC, which was attended by senior leaders and all Ministers of the existing Cabinet. The Chief Minister talked one-to-one with all leaders who attended the meeting about the new Chief Minister and took their feedback," senior leader Saurabh Bharadwaj said.

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NEARBY

BBMP digitises records of 21 lakh properties

BENGALURU
The BBMP has digitised about 21 lakh property records in the city to implement a faceless, contactless online e-khata issuance system. Parts of it will be made public, allowing owners to check the records.

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Cabinet meeting in Kalaburagi today

KALABURAGI
The people of Kalyana Karnataka region are pinning high hopes on the State Cabinet meeting in Kalaburagi district scheduled on Tuesday.

» Page 4

Blue mountains

Rare wonder: Neelakurinji, the flowers that give the Nilgiris its name, in full bloom after 12 years on the slopes of the mountain region in Udhagamandalam in Tamil Nadu on Monday. M. SATHYAMOORTHY

Trump safe after new assassination bid in Florida

Reuters

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump was safe on Sunday after the Secret Service foiled what the FBI called an apparent assassination attempt while he was golfing on his course in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Several Secret Service agents fired on a gunman in bushes near the property line of the golf course after he was spotted a few hundred yards from where Mr. Trump was playing, officials said.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 14

Tomorrow's bounce back
begins with today's preparation.
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After peace talks, Dalits get entry to temple in Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

They were not allowed to use the pathway to the temple by persons of caste Hindu group

Residents of Vazhudambedu Colony in Gummidipoondi taluk in Tiruvallur district of Tamil Nadu were able to enter the Arulmigu Pidari Ettiamman temple and offer prayers after it was unsealed and reopened on Monday. The villagers, mostly belonging to the Scheduled Castes, were denied entry last month after a group of caste Hindus conducted a *kumbhabhishekam* there.

District Collector T. Prabhushankar, who led the villagers into the temple, said the dominant caste members were told that they must live in peace with all residents.

"The dispute arose after the Adi Dravidars were not allowed to use the pathway to the temple by persons of the caste Hindu group. Since the land actually belongs to the temple, we explained it to the residents of both communities and they agreed to come to a compromise," he said. The temple was sealed on the day of the event to prevent any law and order issues.

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Women's commission asks film chamber to form PoSH panel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chamber has been given a 15-day deadline to respond

The Karnataka State Commission for Women has directed the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC) to constitute a Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Committee within the chamber. The chamber has been given a 15-day deadline to respond.

"The Supreme Court has ordered the establishment of a PoSH Committee in any workplace that has 10 or more women in it. It's high time the Kannada film industry had one such committee for women to have the confidence to tackle sexual harassment," said Nagalakshmi Chowdhary, chairperson of the commission.

Ms. Chowdhary, along with members of the Film Industry For Rights and Equality (FIRE), led by filmmaker Kavitha Lankesh – an association formed in the wake of the #MeToo movement in 2018 – attended a meeting at the chamber on Monday.

They submitted a list of 17 demands concerning the working conditions of women in the industry.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

A unique approach to nurturing Indian motorsport engineers – the L.I.M.E. way

United Motorsports Academy – founded by former Red Bull engineer Sangodkar, and Rane – provides a two-week course to qualify for an internship in the IRL and F4 series as part of a scholarship called Launchpad for Indian Motorsports Engineers; students learn about the basics and intricacies of the sport which gives them an opening into the world of fast-paced action

SIVA SANKAR AROKARAN

S. Dipak Ragav

The third season of the Indian Racing Festival began last month at the Madras International Circuit on the outskirts of Chennai, followed by the second round at the Chennai Formula Racing Circuit, a first-of-its-kind night street race in India.

The festival has two championships: the franchise-based Indian Racing League (IRL) and the Formula 4 Indian championship. The F4 Indian championship is the first step in the ladder for youngsters looking to graduate from karts into formula car racing. By having it in India, the organisers hope to help young Indian drivers stay in the country and do the series at a fraction of what it would cost to do the same category in Europe.

While helping drivers is one part of the equation – and it remains to be seen how much it can improve – the league is having a more profound impact on another group of young Indians who want to have a career in motorsports.

The drivers are the sport's protagonists, showing immense grit and bravery to throw around mean machines at eye-popping speeds with control and precision.

Beating heart

But there is another group of people who are actually the sport's beating heart, helping design and run these machines – the engineers.

The cars used in the F4 and IRL are made in Europe, and engineers from abroad are needed to run them. For example, the F4 cars are run by a Dutch team called MP Motorsport, which competes in the feeder categories like the F2, F3 and a few regional F4 championships.

But since last year, there has been an attempt to address this gap by adding more Indian engineers to the mix. During the first two rounds of the 2024 championship in Chennai, youngsters – graduates and those still pursuing their degrees – were seen working with laptops to download data and running with car parts up and down the pitlane.

These students are part of the United Motorsports Academy (U.M.A.), an initiative started by a former F1 aerodynamist to help Indians become motorsport engineers.

After undergoing a two-week course at U.M.A., they qualify for an internship in the IRL and F4 series as part of a scholarship called L.I.M.E. (Launchpad for Indian Motorsports Engineers).

The enterprise is the brainchild of Shubham Sangodkar – who worked with the Red Bull Racing F1 championship-winning team in 2021 and 2022 – and Omkar Rane.

"After returning to India, I started giving guest lectures, and the problems I saw 10 years ago were still there in that there was no real platform for someone who wants to be a motorsport engineer," Sangodkar explained on what prompted him to start U.M.A.

"So I took a step back to see what I can do. I did some career counselling and recorded an online course that went viral, which has 1200 students," he added.

"But, there is a bigger problem to solve, and that's how U.M.A. came up. I then collaborated with Akhilesh Reddy and Aditya Patel (the co-founders of the IRL), and they wanted to do this as well. So, I offered to take up this vertical."

For Sangodkar, the aim in four to five years is for Indians to make up 80% of the engineers in the F4 India championship.

"My vision is to create a programme that allows us to do that. Last year, we did a four-day programme, which was not optimised because of the timing. But this year, we could do what we wanted to last year," said the former Red Bull engineer.

As part of that, U.M.A. conducted a 13-day workshop earlier this year for a cohort of 146 applicants, which involved an equal number of days for theory and practical training in Mumbai.

The course was conducted by Rex Keen, a former race engineer and technical director who has worked in various motorsports categories. It was held at the D&O Motorsports garage, where the students got classes on one side and hands-on experience on the other side of the garage.

At the end of the course, the students took an open-book test, in which 24 qualified for the L.I.M.E. scholarship to do an internship this year at F4 and IRL. Even last year, 24 students graduated from L.I.M.E. 1.0, some of whom are back for a second time this year.

The students learnt about corner balancing, wheel torques, the architecture of an open-wheel car, and double-wishbone suspension. This season, 36 people who have come through this programme are currently involved. These interns do everything the chief mechanic asks, from noting track temperatures and tyre pressure throughout the day to helping adjust set-ups. Seven junior race engineers in this cohort do all the data work after the sessions.

Going forward, Sangodkar said the aim is to create the next lap of the ladder and nurture this talent. "L.I.M.E. is right now an identification and upskilling programme. My vision is to nurture talent and provide 100 opportunities for motorsport volunteering at a high level in this country, and out of that, take 10-15 abroad and provide the opportunity."

"People who do this, their resumes stand out. Whether it is a scholarship you are looking for while applying abroad or a differentiation in the market when trying to get a job with the big manufacturers, it helps," Sangodkar added.

Success stories

One of the success stories of the L.I.M.E. programme is Mrugank Divekar, who participated last year and is working in the FIA F2 series. Divekar, who impressed his engineer during the 2023 season, was referred to work in the upcoming F1 movie starring Hollywood star Brad Pitt. The opportunity to get onto the F1 grid during shooting helped Divekar network and eventually land a job in F2.

Marc Stephen, a third-year Mechanical and Automotive engineering student from VIT Vellore, is doing this internship for the second year. "Last year, I was with the F4 championship, and it was about observing and learning. This year, I get to work on the car. I am the primary data engineer for the Kolkata team in IRL. So, after every session, we check reliability and collect data," said Stephen.

"What we are learning here correlates to what we study in college. You never learn something like this anywhere else. In mechatronics, there is something called Electronically Controlled Solenoids. We saw that being used here. Similarly, we opened up an engine and did a compression test. These are stuff you read about in college, and we are doing that here."

Pranav Rao, a fourth-year engineering student from Bengaluru who is also doing this internship for the second year, credits the U.M.A. for coming up with such an initiative.

"What we do here is the a-b-c-d of putting the car together. We are doing data work, understanding the car inside out, the tyres, driver coaching and psychology. We get to sit with MP Motorsport guys and learn how a race weekend goes. These guys won the F2 championship last year. So this is an amazing platform.

"During the two-week course, we started by understanding suspension systems, a bit of aero, and vehicle dynamics and brushed up on our basics. Our mentor Rex Keen has been drilling us with a lot of knowledge, and because of that, our basics are solid," he added.

Akshara Vinjamuri, a third-year Electronics and Telecommunications Engineering student from Symbiosis Institute of Technology, was a trackside engineer last year and is a junior race assistant engineer in the F4 category this year.

"This year, I got to do many more things and have more responsibility. My job is to sit with the chief engineer and understand how he handles the weekend. They do data and the knick-knacks of cars. They predict what to do and what will happen next," explained Akshara.

"There is a lot of analysis, which I'm picking upon. You can't learn analysis because everyone has their own thought process. I am here to understand what my thought process is and how I can put that into practice. I see what my engineer is telling the driver so I can handle it myself in the future. It is a great learning curve. You can't rote learn, but you must understand," she added.

Akshara also felt the L.I.M.E. programme is a great way to have more women in motorsports. "I would like other women to follow my path. If there is any woman interested in motorsports, they should come to U.M.A."

India, especially South India, is known to produce thousands of engineers every year. So why hasn't motorsport engineering taken off? According to Sangodkar, one reason is that the mechanical engineering department is undervalued in Indian colleges.

"The mechanical engineering department is one-tenth of the size of Computer Science or IT. So colleges and universities are finding it difficult to run it qualitatively because the fees pay for the equipment and professors."

"If we can infuse motorsports as part of the curriculum in mechanical engineering, we can make it attractive and lucrative. But it needs a sustained push," he said.

The programme is open to applicants over the age of 16, and students do not necessarily need an engineering background. Sangodkar even cites an example of a student from a commerce background who has a passion for motorsport and came second in the test.

"It is the vision that we collectively have at U.M.A. and RRPL. Together, we want to build the entire ecosystem, and we can't have one without a strong grassroots. There is good support from RRPL and scope for taking a few junior race engineers and mechanics to a championship in the UAE or elsewhere.

When that happens, you get calls from race engineers to come and work for one or two race weekends, and that's how this ecosystem grows. In four or five years, you will have enough Indians within this ecosystem, and it will grow," Sangodkar said as he signed off on a hopeful note.

THE GIST

- Sangodkar hopes to have Indians make up 80% of the engineers in the F4 India championship in the near future
- U.M.A. conducted a 13-day workshop earlier this year for a cohort of 146 applicants, which involved an equal number of days for theory and practical training in Mumbai
- At the end of the course, the students took an open-book test, in which 24 qualified for the L.I.M.E. scholarship to do an internship this year at F4 and IRL

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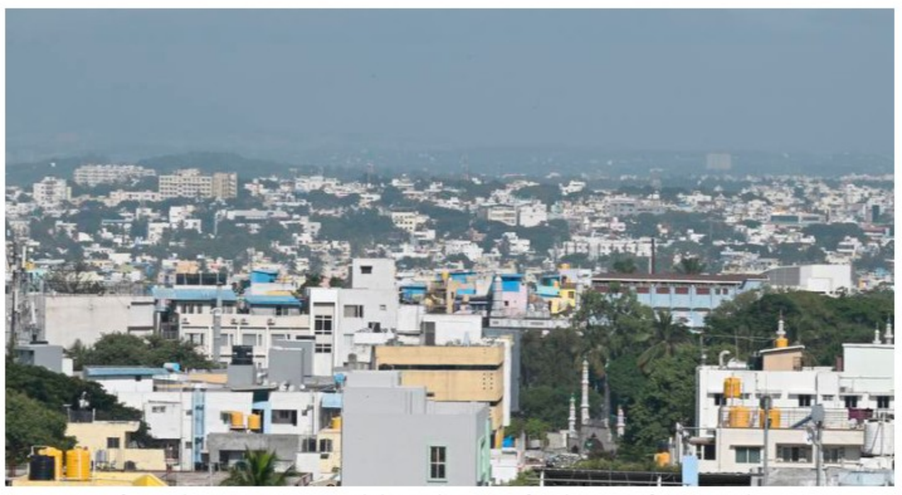
BBMP digitises records of 21 lakh properties

Now, property records are maintained manually in over 5,500 ledgers; digitisation began in 2023 after directions from Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU



Digitisation of Bengaluru's property records began last year after directions from Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar. FILE PHOTO

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has now digitised about 21 lakh property records in the city to implement a faceless, contactless online e-khata issuance system. Parts of it will be made public, allowing property owners to check the records online and get an e-khata soon.

Now, property records are maintained manually in over 5,500 ledgers. Digitisation began in 2023 after directions from Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

The exercise aims to reduce red tape and corruption over issuing khata, but at the same time also increase property tax revenue. The agency tasked with digitising records has finished the work. However, records of only 700 ledgers have been checked.

The BBMP is conducting multi-level quality checks of the digitized records involving case workers, Deputy Commissioners, and Joint Commissioners. At each level, authorized personnel randomly select records to verify their accuracy. If discrepancies are found, the entire ledger is revised.

The civic body plans to roll out the digitized property records of the 700 ledgers soon after integrating corresponding data from Kaveri 2, the database of the Department of Stamps and Registration.

Once the system is launched, property owners will need to enter their names, complete an online KYC, and upload sale deeds of their properties (which can be fetched online from the Kaveri 2 database) to download an e-khata. Before the system goes live, the public will have a 7- to 15-day window to file objections.

"There are over 2.1 million properties in the city. We have digitised the records of 21 lakh properties, with approximately 50,000 remaining. All properties from the 5,500 record books have been digitised. This system will bring transparency as owners won't need to meet revenue officials for e-khatas. It is also expected to boost property tax revenue," a senior civic official stated.

Action sought against Munirathna

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A delegation of Vokkaliga Ministers and legislators from the Congress on Monday called on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and demanded strict legal action against Munirathna, BJP MLA and former Minister, who is accused of making derogatory references to the community.

Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar, Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy, and MLAs and MLCs met the Chief Minister at the latter's residence, and demanded stern action against Mr. Munirathna, representing R.R. Nagar constituency in Bengaluru.

Abused community?
The BJP MLA is alleged to have abused the Vokkaliga community and community women in a purported phone conversation with a contractor that had been leaked.

Meanwhile, Women and Child Development Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar on Monday visited the residence of Cheluvaraju, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike contractor, who filed a complaint accusing Mr. Munirathna and three others of demanding a bribe of ₹30 lakh for a solid waste disposal contract.

Ms. Hebbalkar said the government would take all steps to provide protection to the family of Mr. Cheluvaraju. Mr. Cheluvaraju alleged that Mr. Munirathna threatened, abused, and humiliated him and used casteist slurs while demanding the bribe.

In custody
Mr. Munirathna was taken into custody on Saturday under various charges, including caste abuse and criminal intimidation.

State women's commission takes up *suo motu* case against MLA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Commission for Women took up a *suo motu* case against arrested R.R. Nagar BJP MLA Munirathna on Monday over his purported conversation with a civic contractor in which he allegedly speaks derogatorily about women.

Complaint received
Nagalakshmi Choudhary, chairperson of the Commission, said while they received a complaint from Sowmya Reddy, General Secretary of All India Mahila Congress, the commission has decided to book a *suo motu* case.

"We will issue a notice to Munirathna, seeking a reply. Based on the reply, necessary action will be taken," she added.

Meanwhile, the police said Munirathna complained of uneasiness on Monday. The MLA had told the court on Sunday that he had cardiac and renal problems.

The MLA for R.R. Nagar in Bengaluru was arrested in Kolar on September 14 while he was heading to Andhra Pradesh.

Two cases
Two cases were registered against him for threatening a civic contractor, demanding a bribe, and using casteist slurs against those from a Scheduled Caste community.

The police plan to seek his custody in the second case on Tuesday, when his police custody ends, while Mr. Munirathna plans to seek bail on health grounds.

Four injured in cylinder explosion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Four people were injured, and a building was damaged in an explosion in Baiyappanahalli on Monday. Police and Fire and Emergency Services personnel suspect that a LPG cylinder leak led to the explosion. The police are investigating to ascertain the reason.

Minister for Housing, Waqf and Minority Affairs B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan announced compensation to the injured.

From Page One

Women's commission asks film chamber to form PoSH panel

However, there was significant opposition to FIRE's demand for a committee that could speak confidentially with female artists in the industry to compile a report on the challenges they face.

N.M. Suresh, Chairman of KFCC, expressed skepticism about the productivity of such a committee, similar to the Hema Committee in the Malayalam film industry.

"The chamber's responsibility is to address the problems of the industry and provide appropriate solutions. Why do we need an additional committee? We encourage female artists to come forward and share their concerns with us. So far, neither the Women's Commission nor the KFCC has received official complaints of sexual harassment from women in the industry," Suresh stated.

Kavitha Lankesh, president of FIRE, said, "If the industry's leaders believe that there haven't been enough women raising their voices for a healthier work environment, this research and the subsequent report will prove them wrong."

FIRE has already submitted a petition to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, requesting the formation of a committee headed by a retired judge to investigate the working conditions of women in the Kannada film industry, similar to the Hema Committee that exposed widespread sexual harassment in the Malayalam film industry.

Festive spirit

Devotees take part in Id-Milad procession on Tannery Road in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Commuters seek more MEMU trains

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With Namma Metro struggling with overcrowding due to a shortage of train sets, a similar issue is now affecting South Western Railway. Commuters, particularly those travelling on the busy routes between Whitefield and Hosur, are facing significant challenges due to a shortage of Mainline Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) rakes. This shortage has prevented SWR from running additional trains during peak hours.

Despite the implementation of automatic signalling on the Whitefield-Hosur route, SWR has been unable to meet the rising demand for MEMU services, especially on the Bengaluru Cantonment-Whitefield stretch. The shortage has also impacted other routes, including Tumakuru, Hassan, and Hosur. Commuters, who depend heavily on these services, are now calling for urgent action to alleviate the growing congestion.

"There is a shortage of MEMU rakes, and the Bengaluru division has already requested additional trains from the Railway Board. The line capacity utilisation on the Bengaluru Cantonment-Whitefield section is already over 100%, and while quadrupling work is in progress, the situation remains tight. Similarly, doubling work is ongoing on the Hosur route," a senior SWR official explained.

This shortage has resulted in packed trains, longer waits and frustration among commuters, who are hoping for a swift resolution. For many, additional trains are not just a convenience but a necessity.

"We need more trains, especially during peak hours. The current services are overcrowded, and at times, it is impossible even to board. With more trains, we can have a safer and more comfortable commute," said Harish Ramnath, a commuter from Hosur.

Another commuter, Priya R., who works in Whitefield, shared her concerns. "If more MEMU trains are added, travel will be less stressful. It would also ease the burden on other forms of transport."

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, SEP. 17
RISE 06:09 SET 18:19
RISE 17:53 SET 05:09

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 18
RISE 06:09 SET 18:18
RISE 18:37 SET 06:07

THURSDAY, SEP. 19
RISE 06:09 SET 18:18
RISE 19:22 SET 07:06

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	23
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	30	20

Bengaluru Today
31°C The weather will be mostly dry. Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C Dry weather to continue.. Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Police hunt for rowdy sheeter who stripped man and assaulted him

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Viral video shows a man being forced to strip and being chased on the road naked, even as he is being beaten up

The Kamakshipalya police are on the lookout for a rowdy sheeter who not only stripped a man and assaulted him on the road, to settle an old score, but also recorded a video of the same, which has gone viral now.

The video shows a man being forced to strip and being chased on the road naked, even as he is being beaten up. The video was reportedly shot a few days ago. Following the video going viral on social media, the police have now begun a probe.

According to the police, the accused identified as Pawan Gowda alias Kadubu, is a rowdy sheeter at Rajagopal Nagar police station. The victim is his friend turned foe, who was assaulted reportedly over a trivial row, to teach him a lesson. The victim also has a criminal past and has hence not lodged a complaint, a senior police officer said. "We are on the lookout for both of them who are presently on the run " the official added.

The video was deliberately put on social media by the accused to create a fear psychosis among his rivals, as part of a well thought out strategy, the official said.

NAAC to launch social responsibility programmes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru-based National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) will expand its activities beyond accreditation to Higher Education Institutes (HIEs) through NAAC Social Responsibility (NSR) initiatives leveraging the network of accredited HIEs across the country.

Under NSR, NAAC will undertake various initiatives focused on enhancing the academic, skill development, employability, and overall well-being of school and college students.

These initiatives may include providing academic support, skill training, sports coaching, and other relevant activities.

The first phase will begin in Bengaluru and will be subsequently expanded to other regions of the country. NAAC has partnered with students and faculty from institutions such as Bangalore University, National Law School of India University, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University.

Announcing this during the celebration of the 30th Foundation Day of the NAAC on Monday, Ganesan Kannabiran, Director, NAAC, said: "We will act as a catalyst and help build a network of schools and HEIs so that schools can utilise the facilities in the HEIs."

College students and employed youth will assist schoolchildren in fundamental areas like STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) through conceptual understanding and practical experiences. "College students will be trained to boost their employability and build entrepreneurship. We will also organise camps on Indian culture and values for employed youths," Mr. Kannabiran said.

Mr. Kannabiran said NAAC would begin accrediting yoga courses offered internationally. Given yoga's deep roots in India, NAAC believes that its accreditation would enhance the programme's recognition in other countries.

In his Foundation Day speech, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot emphasised the moral obligation to develop the education system by integrating modern knowledge with Indian values.

"The Indian higher education system is one of the largest and most diverse in the world, with over 1,700 universities and 45,000 colleges," he said.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated September 17, we have a story on 'Nature Walk and Vulture Observation' organised by the Karnataka Forest Department and the Karnataka Vulture Conservation Trust to build awareness about the birds whose population in India has declined by a staggering 99% between 1980s and early 2000s.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (September 17, Tuesday), the following articles are available:

- Why is Tamil Nadu's education funding on hold? **bit.ly/educationfundingonhold**
- How quantum computing can make large language models even better **bit.ly/quantumcomputinglang**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

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How quantum computing can make large language models even better

Quantum processes can help LLMs lower their carbon footprint or become more sophisticated for the same energy usage; sidestep their predilection for 'hallucinating' information; improve the ability to understand syntactics; and are feasible for stationary and nonstationary data

Qudsia Gani
Rukhsanul Haq
Mohsin Ilahi

Quantum natural language processing has emerged as an active and burgeoning field of research with potentially profound implications for language modelling. Representative illustration. GOOGLE DEEPMIND

In recent years, the landscape of artificial intelligence (AI), particularly within the realm of natural language processing (NLP), has undergone a remarkable transformation. We have witnessed the rise of powerful large language models (LLMs) made by OpenAI, Google, and Microsoft, among others, and generative AI (Gen-AI), characterised by its unparalleled ability to generate data based on user inputs.

These sophisticated models have revolutionised human-computer interactions, bestowing upon users experiences akin to human understanding. The advent of these cutting-edge technologies and their wide availability has compelled people at large, industry stakeholders, and governmental bodies to pay attention to their implications.

Problems with current LLMs

LLMs are a cornerstone in AI and mirror the complexities of human language processing. They can classify text, answer questions, and translate between languages. But they also consume a lot of energy to be trained and when put in use.

For example, as models go, LLMs are much larger than other AI applications such as computer vision. The energy consumption of a large language model (LLM) is determined mostly by the number of parameters it has. Larger models demand more computational power for both training and inference. For example, GPT-3 has 175 billion parameters and required around 1,287 MWh of electricity to train. This is around what an average American household consumes in 120 years.LLMs also surpass non-AI applications in this regard. Training an LLM with 1.75 billion parameters can emit up to 284 tonnes of carbon dioxide, which represents more energy than that required to run a data centre with 5,000 servers for a year.

It's important that we lower LLMs' carbon footprint to ensure they are sustainable and cost-effective. Achieving these goals will give LLMs more room to become more sophisticated as well.

Another shortcoming of LLMs pertains to their pre-trained nature, which restricts the level of control users have over their functioning. These models are trained on large datasets, with which they develop awareness of word-use patterns in diverse linguistic contexts. But such training often also results in "hallucinations." Essentially, LLMs may generate text that is contextually coherent but factually incorrect or semantically nonsensical. This arises from limitations inherent to the training, when the model's understanding may diverge from reality.

A third limitation revolves around the abilities of current LLMs to understand syntactics. Syntax refers to the structural arrangement of words and phrases in a sentence. LLMs excel at processing the semantic (meaning-related) aspects of natural language but struggle with syntax. For example, they may overlook or misinterpret syntactic cues and impede their ability to generate contextually appropriate text.In sum, we need to develop sustainable, energy-efficient approaches that yield more accurate language models.

Syntactics and semantics

Quantum computing is a highly promising way to address these challenges. It harnesses the remarkable properties of quantum physics like superposition and entanglement for computational needs. In particular, quantum natural language processing (QNLP) has emerged as an active and burgeoning field of research with potentially profound implications for language modelling.

QNLP incurs lower energy costs than conventional LLMs by leveraging quantum phenomena. QNLP models also require far fewer parameters than their classical counterparts in order to achieve the same outcomes (on paper), thus promising to enhance efficiency without compromising performance.

This processing paradigm takes advantage of quantum correlations, an approach in which the system focusses on grammar (syntax) and meaning (semantics) together rather than separately as conventional systems do. QNLP achieves this using a better "mapping" between the rules of grammar and quantum physical phenomena like entanglement and superposition. The result is a deeper, more complete understanding of language.

The approach is also expected to mitigate the "hallucinations" that plague many existing LLMs, as the resulting QNLP models are better equipped to distinguish the contexts of various pieces of information and produce more accurate outputs.

With the help of QNLP, researchers also hope to uncover the mental processes that allow us to understand and create sentences, yielding new insights into how language works in the mind.

Time-series forecasting

From the basic details of quantum mechanics, we learn that a quantum system (like an atom or a group of particles) can be described by a quantum state – a mathematical representation that keeps evolving with time. By studying this representation, we can determine the expected outcomes of an experiment involving that system. Based on the same idea, researchers have proposed a quantum generative model to work with time-series data.

> LLMs are a cornerstone in AI and mirror the complexities of human language processing. They can classify text, answer questions, and translate between languages. But they also consume a lot of energy

A generative model is a mathematical model that generates data, if required, with a user's inputs.

A general model designed to run on a quantum computer is a quantum generative model (QGen). Here, the techniques of quantum computing can be used to create or analyse sophisticated time-series data that conventional computers struggle with. Time-series data is data of something that has been recorded at fixed intervals. This new data can then be used to teach quantum algorithms to identify patterns in the data more efficiently, to solve complex problems related to forecasting (e.g., stock market trends), and/or to detect anomalies.

On May 20, 2024, researchers in Japan reported that a QGen AI model they built could successfully work with both stationary and nonstationary data.

Stationary data refers to information that doesn't change much over time. It stays fairly constant or fluctuates around a stable average. For example, the current price of a commodity like gold or the world's population can be considered stationary: the data doesn't show big changes in trends over a short period and the values move within a predictable range. On the other hand, nonstationary data keep changing, such as ambient temperature, stock prices, and the GDP. Classical methods struggle to analyse such data accurately.

In the new study, the researchers built a time-series QGen AI model and evaluated its performance by applying it to solve plausible financial problems. They wrote in their preprint paper: "Future data for two correlated time series were generated and compared with classical methods such as long short-term memory and vector autoregression. Furthermore, numerical experiments were performed to complete missing values. Based on the results, we evaluated the practical applications of the time-series quantum generation model. It was observed that fewer parameter values were required compared with the classical method. In addition, the quantum time-series generation model was feasible for both stationary and nonstationary data."

That fewer parameters were required means the model based on the quantum computer could solve the same problems as a classical computer but while requiring less computational resources.

In sum, quantum computing holds considerable potential to revolutionise AI applications, particularly in addressing the challenges posed by current LLMs.

By embracing QNLP and QGen-AI, together with advancements in time-series forecasting, we can pave the way for sustainable, efficient, and performant AI systems.

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Elephants at Kimana Sanctuary in Kenya. AFP

Environment takes centre stage as global summits loom

Agence France Presse

Global warming, biodiversity loss, desertification, and plastic pollution – these urgent environmental challenges will be in the spotlight over the next few months as the United Nations hosts four major sessions to address key threats to the planet.

First up is a Conference of the Parties (COP) dedicated to biodiversity being held in Cali, Colombia, from October 21 to November 1.

These are called every two years to debate how the world can cooperate to better protect the rich variety of plant and animal life in the natural world.

The COP16 isn't expected to break new ground but is more a stocktake of progress since the last summit secured historic assurances for biodiversity.

In 2022 in Montreal, nations agreed to place 30% of the planet under environmental protection by 2030 in a landmark pact aimed at arresting biodiversity loss and restoring ecosystems to health.

In Cali, countries will put forward national strategies to meet this global objective.

Second, the world's most important conference on climate change is being hosted this year by Azerbaijan, a country dependent heavily on oil and gas exports, from November 11 to 22.

While the last summit in Dubai in 2023 delivered a historic commitment to transition the world away from fossil fuels, supporting poorer countries with climate change will top this year's agenda.

The COP16 is expected to assess progress since the last summit, which secured significant pledges to promote biodiversity

The summit, known as COP29, is expected to land a new agreement on climate finance: money from rich nations most responsible for global warming to developing countries vulnerable to climate change.

There isn't an agreed figure yet, or even consensus on where the money should come from, who should receive it, and what form it could take.

Developing countries are pushing for much more than the $100 billion pledged in 2009.

The result of the US election, just six days before COP29 begins, could also twist final negotiations.

Third is the least high profile of the three COPs on desertification. This critical session in Saudi Arabia will address the loss of fertile land to desert.

Climate variation like droughts and human activities like overgrazing can result in desertification, a process where land degrades and becomes unproductive.

Experts hope the COP16 on desertification, scheduled to take place in Riyadh from December 2 to 13, can act as a turning point in addressing this problem.

Finally: plastics. In 2022, some 175 nations agreed to fast-track negotiations towards a treaty on plastic pollution, and the final session gets underway on November 25 in South Korea.

The treaty aims to marshal an international response to the plastic trash choking the environment, from oceans and rivers to mountains and sea ice.

Some nations want the treaty to restrict how much plastic can be made, while others, particularly oil and gas producing countries that provide the raw materials to make plastic, want a focus on recycling.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Today is the 30th death anniversary of Karl Popper

Siva Shakthi A.

QUESTION 1

Karl Popper is best known for an influential philosophy of science he developed in the 20th century, particularly his concept of _____, which states that scientific theories must by definition be capable of being proven wrong. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2

While Popper believed science progresses through the demarcation of science from non-science, which historian of science argued that major changes in science occur when a prevailing scientific framework or a paradigm is overturned and replaced by a new one?

QUESTION 3

Popper attempted to challenge a particular interpretation of quantum mechanics put forth by scientists Neils Bohr, Werner Heisenberg, and Max Bohr. Popper argued against the idea that particles have definite properties only when they're measured. What is the interpretation called?

QUESTION 4

In a 1934 book, Popper introduced the idea that scientific theories should be testable and refutable to be considered valid in an influential 1934 book. Name it. It laid the foundation for his philosophy and later influenced the work of several scientists and philosophers.

QUESTION 5

Popper was a critic of _____, the belief that science could determine universal truths just by repeated observation and empirical data. His view made him laud the work of Albert Einstein, which incorporated theoretical innovation alongside empirical testing.

Answers to September 12 quiz:

1. Device used to deliver sound and images in 'The Jazz Singer' – **Ans: Vitaphone**
2. Emile Berliner's material of choice for records – **Ans: Shellac**
3. Wavelength of lasers in compact disc players – **Ans: 780 nm**
4. Algorithm for lossless data compression – **Ans: Huffman coding**
5. Device that imprinted audio data on magnetic material – **Ans: Tape recorder**

First contact: Seema Das | K.N. Viswanathan | Subhadip Paria | Palicherlu V. Prakash | Anmol Agrawal

Visual: Name this German astronomer whose theory of planetary motion helped Popper develop his philosophy of science. ALDERON

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

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September 17, 2024

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SUBHADRA

by

Prime Minister
Narendra Modi

- The scheme will benefit over 1 crore women in Odisha
- Beneficiaries will receive ₹10,000 annually in two installments, totaling ₹50,000 over 5 years
- Financial assistance will be directly transferred to beneficiaries' Aadhaar enabled bank accounts through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer)
- The application process for SUBHADRA is ongoing and there is no closing date

In the august presence of

Raghubar Das
Governor, Odisha

Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

Dharmendra Pradhan
Minister of Education, Govt. of India

Jual Oram
Minister of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India

Annpurna Devi
Minister of Women & Child Development, Govt. of India

Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo
Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha

Pravati Parida
Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha

And other distinguished guests

Date: 17th September 2024 | Time: 12:00 Noon
Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar

You are requested to be seated by 9:30 AM

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J BG-BGE

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ

ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ನಡೆ - ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯ ಕಡೆ

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

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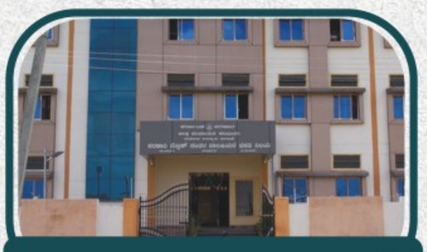
(2024-25) ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ



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ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ
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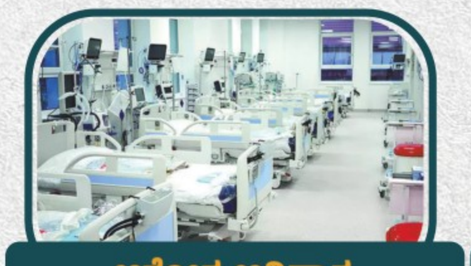
ಪ.ಜಾ/ಪ.ಪಂ ಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ
ಪ.ಜಾ/ಪ.ಪಂ ಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ **₹200 ಕೋಟಿ** ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ **ಮೊರಾರ್ಜಿ ದೇಸಾಯಿ ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆ**ಗಳು, ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ಪೂರ್ವ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೆಟ್ರಿಕ್ ನಂತರದ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ **ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ನಿಲಯ**ಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ

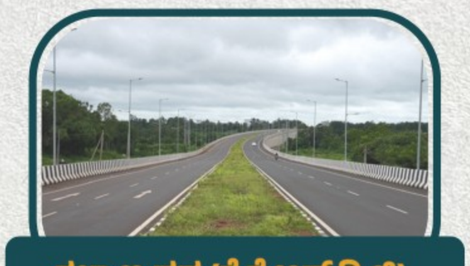
ಅಕ್ಷರ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ
ಶಿಕ್ಷಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ **ಶೇ. 25%** ಅನುದಾನ ಮೀಸಲು.
ಅಕ್ಷರ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ **ಎಲ್.ಕೆ.ಜಿ, ಯು.ಕೆ.ಜಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು, ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಎಸ್ ಶಾಲೆಗಳ** ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ



ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ
₹500 ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ **ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ, ಸಮುದಾಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳು, ತಾಯಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ** ಹಾಗೂ **ಜಯದೇವ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಯ** ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ

ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ
ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ
₹10 ಕೋಟಿ ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ **25,000 ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ತರಬೇತಿ**

ಆಡಳಿತ ಸೌಧ
(ಮಿನಿ ವಿಧಾನ ಸೌಧಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ)
ಹೊಸ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಭದ್ರ ಆಡಳಿತಕ್ಕಾಗಿ **₹160 ಕೋಟಿ** ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ **ಮಿನಿ ವಿಧಾನಸೌಧ**ಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ



ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಪಥ (ಕೆ.ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಬಿ)
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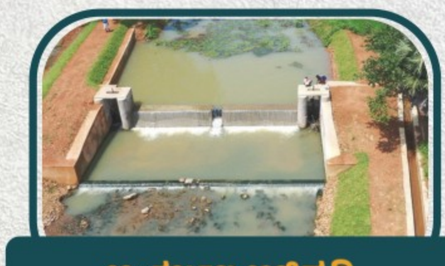

ಅಂತರ್ಜಲ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ
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ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ. ಸುಧಾಕರ್, ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆ ಸಚಿವರು,
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ**ನವರ ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ಕೆ.ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಬಿ ಯ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿರುವುದು

ಇಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕಲಬುರಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯಲಿರುವ ಐತಿಹಾಸಿಕ ಸಚಿವ ಸಂಪುಟ ಸಭೆಗೆ ಆಗಮಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು, ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಸಚಿವರಿಗೂ ಹಾರ್ದಿಕ ಸ್ವಾಗತ

ಧ್ವಜಾರೋಹಣ

ಪೊಲೀಸ್ ಪರೇಡ್ ಮೈದಾನ, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ
ಸೆಪ್ಟೆಂಬರ್ 17, 2024| ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 9ಕ್ಕೆ

ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ ಆದರದ ಸ್ವಾಗತ

ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರಾದ **ಡಾ. ಅಜಯ್ ಧರ್ಮಸಿಂಗ್** ಅವರು ಮಾಧ್ಯಮವನ್ನು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುತ್ತಿರುವುದು

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The percentage of independents in fray in Jammu & Kashmir

40 A total of 365 candidates have filed their nominations as Independent candidates to contest the three-phase polls. This is the second-highest number of Independents to contest the polls in J&K. PTI

Bail granted to MPs linked to Pak's ex-PM Imran Khan

10 At least 30 people from Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party — including 10 MPs — were remanded in custody last Tuesday, two days after they led a major rally in the capital, Islamabad. AFP

Death toll due to Typhoon Yagi in South East Asian countries

400 Yagi battered Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand with powerful winds and a huge dump of rain over a week ago, triggering floods and landslides. AFP

The amount of aid the U.S. will provide Bangladesh

202 in $ million. USAID will provide a grant to Bangladesh for its three sectors: good governance, social, human, and economic opportunity, and resilience. PTI

Deaths due to gang infighting in Mexico's cartel bastion

30 The fighting follows the arrest of Sinaloa Cartel co-founder Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada, who claimed he had been delivered into custody against his will. AFP

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Why is T.N.'s education funding on hold?

Why has Tamil Nadu not received its Samagra Shiksha funds for this year? What are the conditions attached to the release of Tamil Nadu's education funds? How does the National Education Policy 2020 affect funding? Why is the three-language formula a contentious issue?

EXPLAINER

Priscilla Jebaraj

The story so far:
Tamil Nadu is yet to receive this year's funds from the Union government under the flagship education scheme Samagra Shiksha. According to the State government, the Centre has linked these funds to the complete implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which includes provisions that the State has opposed, including the contentious three-language formula. The impasse has come to a head over the last two weeks, with a public war of words between the Centre and State erupting on X.

What is Samagra Shiksha and why has Tamil Nadu not gotten funds under it?
Samagra Shiksha is an integrated Centrally-sponsored scheme for school education from nursery till Class 12, with components for teacher training and salaries, special education, digital education, school infrastructure, administrative reform, vocational and sports education, with grants for textbooks, uniforms, and libraries, among others. The scheme's estimated outlay between 2021 and 2026 is ₹2.94 lakh crore, with the Centre and States contributing funds in a 60:40 ratio. For 2024-25, Tamil Nadu's allocation under the scheme amounts to ₹3,586 crore of which the Central share is ₹2,152 crore, with a first quarterly instalment of ₹573 crore, which has not yet arrived halfway through the financial year.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin accused the Centre of imposing a prerequisite for the fund's disbursal, namely, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for another Centrally-sponsored education scheme called PM Schools for Rising India (PM Shri). This scheme, being run from 2022-2027, aims to create 14,500 model schools across the country to showcase the implementation of NEP 2020, and has a much smaller project cost of ₹27,360 crore. The Centre has sent at least 10 letters to Tamil Nadu from September 2022, asking the State to sign the MoU, which included an agreement to fully implement the NEP.

In limbo: The State implements a two-language formula, making it mandatory for all students to study both Tamil and English throughout their school years. PTI

In March 2024, the State gave an undertaking that it would do so, with Tamil Nadu Education Minister Anbil Mahesh saying that this was because the PM Shri MoU was being linked to funding for the much larger Samagra Shiksha – the delayed third and fourth instalments from 2023-24, and the full funds for the current year. In July, the State signed a modified MoU, dropping the paragraph on NEP implementation, however, this was unacceptable to the Centre. In his August letter, Mr. Stalin noted that States which had signed the MoU had received the funds, and in a September post on X, accused the Centre of "denying funds to the best-performing States for refusing to bow to the NEP".

The Union Education department has taken umbrage at this implication. In response to an article by *The Hindu*, a Ministry spokesperson said it was "misleading" and "incorrect" to suggest any such "*quid pro quo*". However, the fact remains that Tamil Nadu has not signed the complete PM Shri MoU and has not received Samagra Shiksha funds.

What is Tamil Nadu's problem with the NEP 2020?
In a post on X, Mr. Mahesh said the State's objections "relate to specific elements like the three-language formula and curriculum changes", and noted that "Tamil Nadu is already implementing many acceptable aspects of NEP through its own initiatives". He also warned that linking the release of Samagra Shiksha funds to full NEP compliance "infringes upon the State's constitutional autonomy in education".

Tamil Nadu's draft State Education Policy (SEP), submitted in July, clearly indicates that the State wants to stick to the 5+3+2+2 curricular formula, rather than the NEP, which includes the pre-school years. The SEP also proposes five years as the age of entry to Class 1, as against six years in the NEP. The State wants undergraduate college admissions to be based on Class 11 and 12 marks, rather than a common entrance test as proposed by the NEP. The biggest hurdle, however, is the NEP's three-language formula.

Why does Tamil Nadu oppose the three-language formula?
The NEP 2020 recommends the mother tongue or the local language as the medium of instruction till Class 5 and says that all school students should be taught at least three languages, of which two must be native to India. This three-language formula recommendation has been in every NEP since 1968, and has been implemented in many States by teaching the local language, as well as English and Hindi, with Sanskrit also offered as an option, especially in Hindi-speaking States.

Tamil Nadu has had a long-standing opposition to this formula, dating back to social movements in the pre-Independence era. From a widespread agitation against mandatory Hindi in the 1930s to violent anti-Hindi riots in the late 1960s, to protests against the NEP and Navodaya schools in 1986, there has been a consistent political consensus on the issue.

Instead, the State implements a two-language formula, making it mandatory for all students to study both Tamil and English throughout their school years, and they are free to choose Hindi or any other language as an optional third. "We embrace Tamil as a pillar of our identity while also ensuring future generations are equipped with English proficiency," Mr. Mahesh said in a recent post on X.

NEP 2020 says that "there will be a greater flexibility in the three-language formula, and no language will be imposed on any State", indicating that it is not mandatory to include Hindi as one of the three languages. However, this would still allow students to choose Tamil as a third language, to be studied for just a few years in middle school.

All major political parties in Tamil Nadu have rejected this formula on principle. When Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan asked whether this "principled" stance against NEP meant that Tamil Nadu was opposing education in the mother tongue including Tamil, Mr. Mahesh responded that the State's policy has "always prioritised inclusive learning with Tamil as a cornerstone, while empowering students with knowledge in English".

THE GIST

- Tamil Nadu hasn't received its Samagra Shiksha funds for the current year.
- Tamil Nadu rejects the NEP's requirement for teaching three languages, preferring its own two-language formula.
- The disagreement over NEP compliance has led to heightened tensions and a public exchange between Tamil Nadu and the Centre.

How do emergency provisions impact Centre-State relations?

What is the federal structure of governance in India? How do Articles 355 and 356 affect federalism?

Rangarajan R.

The story so far:
The recent spate of renewed violence in Manipur has once again triggered the discussion around Centre-State relations and the use of emergency provisions by the Centre.

What is our federal set-up?
India is a federation with governments at the Centre and the States. The Seventh Schedule to the Indian Constitution distributes the power between the Union and States. Under this scheme, it is the domain of the State governments to maintain law and order in their respective States.

What are emergency provisions?
The emergency provisions are provided in Part XVIII of the Constitution. Articles 355 and 356 deal primarily with the affairs of government in a State under this part. Article 355 imposes a duty on the Centre to protect every State from external aggression and internal disturbance. It also specifies that the Centre should ensure that every State government operate according to the Constitution. Article 356 allows for the imposition of the President's rule if a State's government cannot function in accordance with constitutional provisions. While in the U.S. and Australia, federal government functions also involve protecting States, their constitutions do not contain provisions for removing State governments.

B.R. Ambedkar explained the purpose of Article 355, keeping in mind the federal character of our polity, that if the Centre is to interfere in the State's administration under Article 356, it must be by or under some obligation which the Constitution imposes on the Centre. Hence, Article 355 was incorporated to check any arbitrary or unauthorised use of Article 356.

What have the courts ruled?
Dr. Ambedkar again in the constituent Assembly wished that Articles 355 and 356 would never be called into operation and would remain a dead letter. However, it was a travesty of the Constitutional principles and federalism that Article 356 was misused on several occasions removing elected governments that enjoyed majority in the States. Reasons varied from loss in Lok Sabha elections to deterioration of law and order in the States. It was only after the Supreme Court's categorical judgement in the S R Bommai case (1994) that such misuse was restricted. The court held that Article 356 should be imposed only in the event of a breakdown of constitutional machinery, as distinguished from an ordinary breakdown of law and order. It also held that the imposition of the President's rule is subject to judicial review and should not be misused for political reasons.

On the other hand, the scope of Article 355 has been widened by various Supreme Court rulings. In *State of Rajasthan Vs Union of India* (1977), the court had a narrow interpretation of Article 355 as justifying the employment of Article 356. However, in subsequent cases such as *Naga People's Movement of Human Rights Vs Union of India* (1998), *Sarbananda Sonowal Vs Union of India* (2005), and *H.S.Jain Vs Union of India* (1997), the legal position with respect to Article 355 has shifted. The scope of actions under this article has been widened to permit all statutorily and constitutionally available actions by the Union to discharge its duties of protecting the State and ensuring that its governance is in accordance with the Constitution.

What are the suggestions?
The Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations (1987), the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2002), and the Punchhi Commission on Centre-State Relations (2010) have all opined that Article 355 not only imposes a duty on the Union but also grants it the power to take necessary actions for the effective performance of that duty. Imposition of the President's rule under Article 356 must be used as a last resort in situations of utmost gravity and urgency.

The situation in Manipur is grave. Large-scale violence against innocent civilians, women and children; looting of ammunition from police armoury; drone and missile attacks targeting civilians cannot be viewed as just an ordinary breakdown of law and order. Constitutional as well as political expediency, considering that the same party is in power at the Centre and the State, has resulted in Article 356 not being invoked. However, under Article 355, all possible instructions and actions should continue to be pursued to restore normalcy at the earliest.

Rangarajan R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. Views expressed are personal

THE GIST

- India's federal system divides powers between the Union and State governments, with States responsible for maintaining law and order.
- Articles 355 and 356 of the Constitution allow the Centre to intervene in States under certain conditions. Article 355 mandates the Centre to protect States from internal and external threats, while Article 356 permits the imposition of President's rule if a State's government fails to function according to the Constitution.

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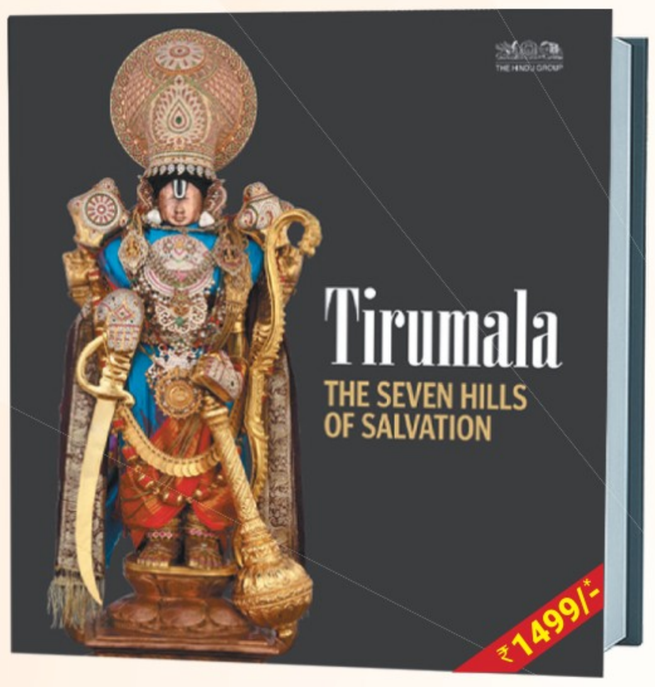

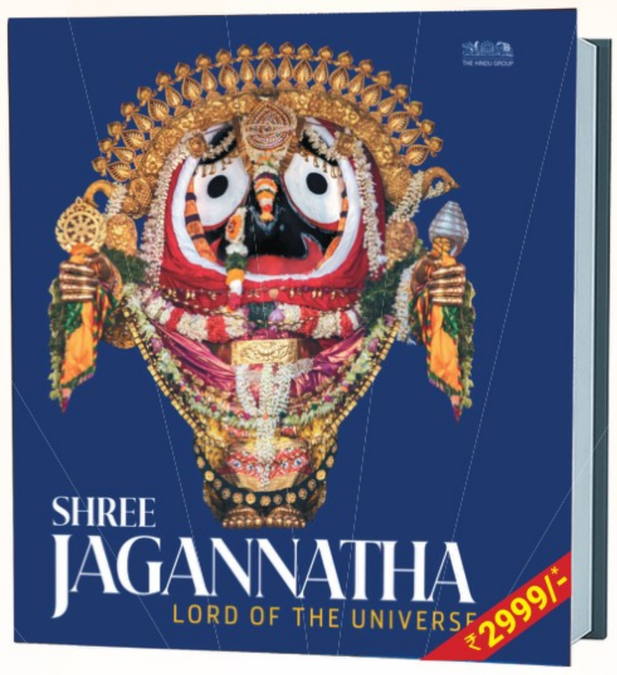

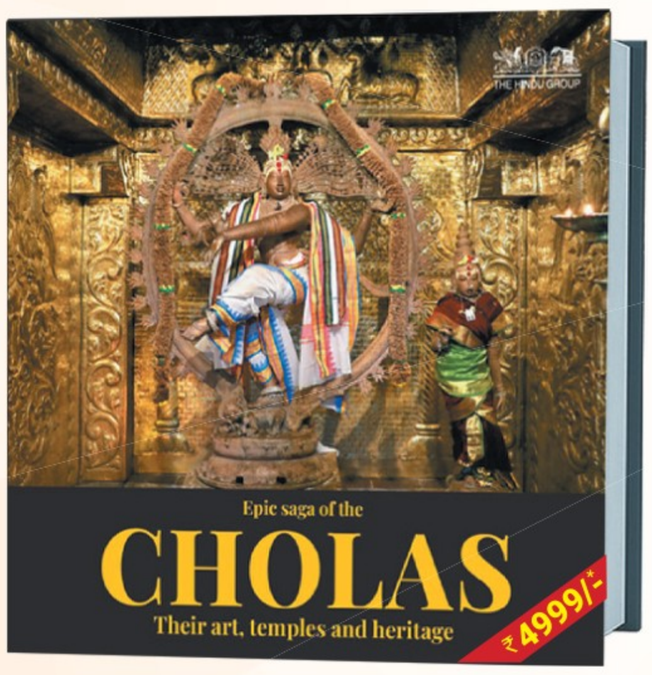

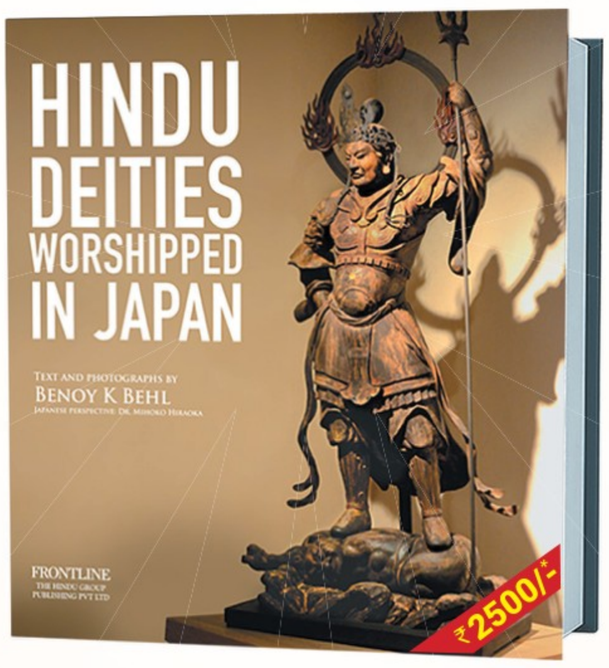

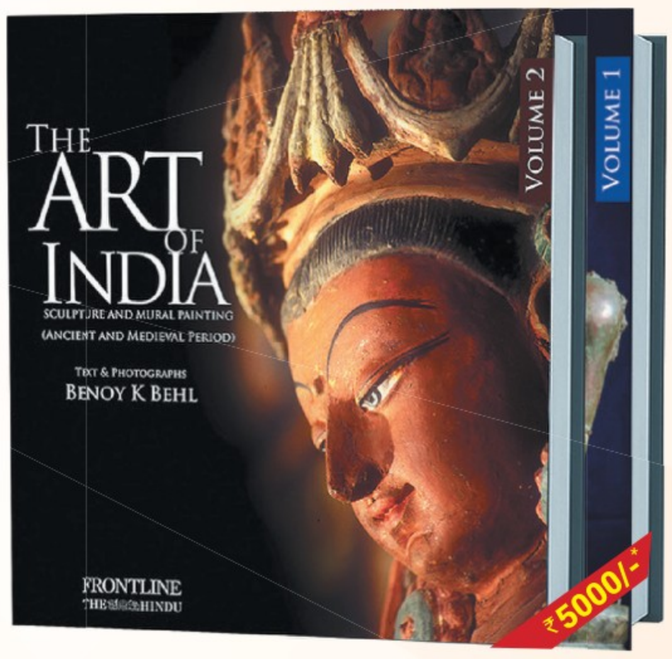

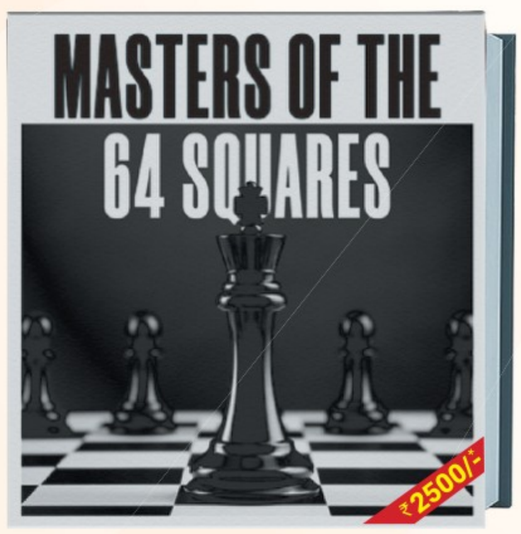

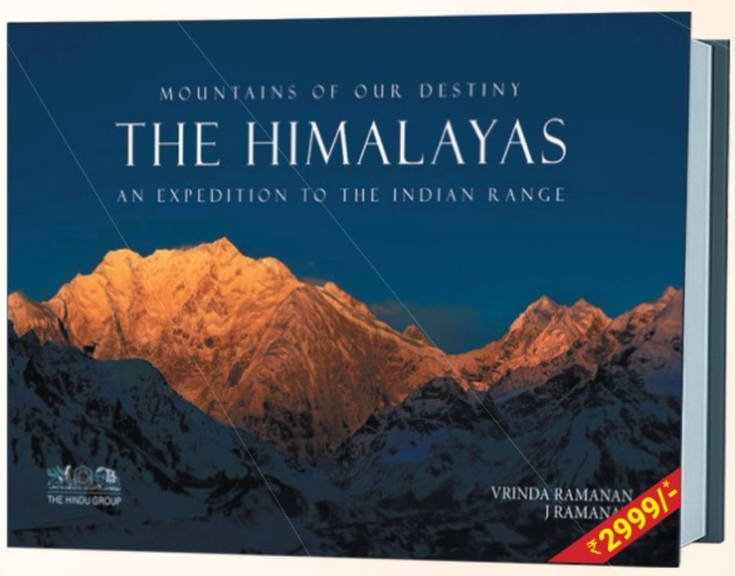

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Hold elections to local bodies: HDK

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Urging the State government to hold elections to local bodies, Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy on Monday took a swipe at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for organising a human chain to celebrate democracy but not conducting the elections.

"Under the guise of promoting human welfare, you [Mr. Siddaramaiah] formed a human chain. The Congress government in Karnataka shows no concern for democracy. If they did, they would first conduct elections to local bodies," Mr. Kumaraswamy said on social media platform X.

He said that since coming to power, the Congress government has not conducted elections at the district and taluk levels, and for the BBMP.

Questioning the delay in holding the elections, he said: "Just because you have come to power, does it mean that the local governments should be ignored while you parade around the Vidhana Soudha? You have been in power for over a year and four months. Yet, the elections to local bodies have not been conducted. Your democracy and people-oriented approach seem to shine only in advertisements."

People of Kalyana Karnataka pin high hopes on Cabinet meeting in Kalaburagi today

The meeting is likely to discuss some important issues, including the long-pending irrigation projects in the region; establishment of new primary health centres may be approved

Praveen B. Para
KALABURAGI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah arriving at Kalaburagi airport on Monday. ARUN KULKARNI

The people of Kalyana Karnataka are pinning high hopes on the State Cabinet meeting in Kalaburagi district scheduled on Tuesday.

They hope it will explore solutions to the long-standing problems of the most backward region in Karnataka. The last Cabinet meeting held in Kalaburagi to discuss issues related to the region was in 2014 during the first stint of Siddaramaiah as the Chief Minister.

It is hard for people of the region to believe that a Cabinet meeting in Kalaburagi will change things for the better any time soon, as the region had gained little from the six Cabinet meetings held in the city so far.

The Cabinet meeting on Tuesday is likely to discuss some important issues, including the long-pending irrigation projects in the districts.

Farmers leaders say that some of the projects, like Bhima lift irrigation, Amarja irrigation, Gandorinala irrigation, Bennethora project, Upper Mullamari and Lower Mullamari projects, were taken up nearly five decades ago, but are yet to be completed due to lack of political will.

They also allege that some have technical flaws leading to water not reaching the tail-end farms. At the Cabinet meeting held in Kalaburagi in November 2014, a decision was taken to fill up nearly 50,000 vacant posts in various departments in Kalyana Karnataka region. Ministers had promised to complete the recruitment process by June 2015. However, the decision is yet to be implemented.

As of now, nearly 1,09,416 posts were sanctioned in various government departments in the seven districts of the region under Article 371(J) of the Constitution, of which 79,990 were filled, which means that 29,426 are vacant.

The Cabinet could discuss sanctioning the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health in Kalaburagi, establishment of Skill Centres at Kalaburagi and Koppal districts, and Skill Park in Ballari district. Besides completing the old lift irrigation projects in the region, the Cabinet is expected to give approval for new lift irrigation projects in Koppal and Kalaburagi districts.

The Cabinet could also allocate more funds for much-awaited projects, such as Toor Dal Park, Mega Textile Park, Kalyana Patha scheme (construction of 1,000 km roads in rural areas), and land acquisition for the Second Ring Road in Kalaburagi city.

Development of Sannati Buddhist site, situated near Kanaganahalli, and ancient Nagavi University; and setting up a tourism circuit covering temples and historical sites, including Kanaganahali, Nagavi, Anjanadri Hills, forts in Kalaburagi, Malkhed and Bidar, and Chandrampalli dam will also be discussed.

The Cabinet is likely to approve the establishment of new primary health centres, additional police stations and construction of Mini-Vidhana Soudhas in the 18 newly formed taluks in the Kalyana Karnataka region.

The first Cabinet meeting in Kalaburagi was held by the then Chief Minister late R. Gundu Rao in 1981. Former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa held Cabinet meetings in Kalaburagi in 2008, 2009, and 2010. The Jagadish Shettar-led government held one meeting in 2012.

Internal reservation: State govt. urged to promulgate Ordinance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has been urged to decide on promulgating an Ordinance to implement internal reservation in Karnataka at its Cabinet meeting in Kalaburagi on Tuesday, even as several intellectuals have lent support to the demand.

Activists of the Federation of Scheduled Castes for Social Justice, who met here on Monday, urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to take a decision on the Ordinance and incorporate recommendations made by the A.J. Sadashiva, the H.N. Nagamohan Das, and the H. Kantharaj Commissions that conducted a socio-economic survey or the caste census.

Warning of launching a Statewide struggle to bring pressure on the government, the federation said that the Cabinet has to decide on implementing the internal reservation on Tuesday and it should be implemented within two months.

Among those who signed the memorandum include writers Devanur Mahadeva, Baragur Ramachandrappa, Banjagere Jayaprakash, Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy, retired Supreme Court judge V. Gopal Gowda, former chairpersons of Backward Classes Commission Ravivarma Kumar and C.S. Dwarkanath, and former BSP State president Marasandra Muniyappa.

> The Congress manifesto and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had promised to work towards internal reservation.
>
> **BASAVARAJ KOWTAL,** Chief convener, Federation of Scheduled Castes for Social Justice

"We are reminding the Congress of its promises made to us on the issue. When we met (Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha) Rahul Gandhi in Vijayapura during elections, he was sympathetic to our demands and had said he favoured social justice. The Congress manifesto and Mr. Siddaramaiah had promised to work towards internal reservation," the federation's chief convener Basavaraj Kowtal said.

He said that they had already discussed the matter with the Chief Minister and hoped that a favourable decision would be taken. "After a three-decade struggle, the Supreme Court ruling has given the State government an opportunity to implement the internal reservation by itself."

Fact-finding team of BJP visits Nagamangala

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The BJP's fact-finding committee, headed by former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, on Monday visited Nagamangala town in Mandya district, where violence erupted during a Ganesha idol immersion procession.

Team visits shops

Dr. Narayan was accompanied by former Minister K.C. Narayana Gowda, retired IPS officer Bhaskar Rao, and other BJP leaders. They visited shops in the area that were damaged during the violence.

Accusing the State government of failing to maintain law and order, Dr. Narayan emphasised the need for compensating victims of the violence.

Submission of report

Mr. Gowda said the committee will find out the truth behind the communal trouble in the town and submit its finding in a report.

Mr. Rao, who is also a former Commissioner of the Bengaluru City Police, said communal disturbances can be prevented by proper preparation and handling of the situation. Failure to nip such problems in the bud will give rise to major issues, he pointed out.

'KPTCL employee can't seek seniority in promotion if transferred on request'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An employee of Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. (KPTCL) who has been transferred from one circle to another on his/her request, cannot claim seniority over the cadre of that circle with regard to promotion in terms of the regulations governing the transfer, said the High Court of Karnataka.

As per the regulations, the court said "an employee's seniority in the transferred circle for the purpose of promotion can be counted only with reference to his/her entry in the transferred circle, and not on the basis of his date of birth in the previous circle", when the transfer is based on the employee's request.

Verdict questioned

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice K.V. Aravind, passed the order while allowing an appeal filed by KPTCL, which had questioned the verdict of a single judge who had set aside KPTCL's 2022 circular issued on transfer policy based on the regulations.

The Bench made it clear that as per the Karnataka Electricity Board Recruitment and Promotion (Amendment and Regulations) 2020, employees who are transferred upon their own request/voluntarily to another circle, cannot claim seniority over employees in the transferred circle's cadre for the purpose of promotion.

Noticing that KPTCL's regulations stipulate that the employee will have to give an undertaking on giving up the seniority in the circle when the transfer is being sought voluntarily, the Bench also said that employees cannot claim seniority in promotion in the transferred circle having signed the undertaking to forego the seniority in promotion on being transferred to a circle of their choice.

Also, the Bench noted from the regulations that the condition of foregoing seniority in the transferred circle does not apply when the KPTCL itself transfers an employee from one circle to another in its interest.

Gauri case: High Court grants bail to four more accused owing to delay in progress of trial

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Citing delay in the progress of trial, the High Court of Karnataka has granted bail to four more accused persons in the Gauri Lankesh murder case. The editor-activist was shot dead at her residence on September 5, 2017.

Those granted bail are Bharat Jayawant Kurane, 42, Sudhanva Gondhalekar, 43, Sujith Kumar, 42, and Srikanth Pangarkar, 48, who have been arraigned as accused number 6, 9, 13, and 16 respectively in the charge sheet.

Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty passed the order while allowing separate petitions filed by the four accused while granting them bail on similar grounds of delay in progress of trial on which the four other accused persons (accused number 5,7,11 and 17) were given bail earlier.

"Undisputedly, petitioners herein were not present at the spot of crime on the date of incident. Accused number 2 [Parashuram Wagmore] and 3 [Ganesh Maskin] are the alleged assailants of deceased Gauri Lankesh. The allegation against the petitioners is about conspiring with the other accused persons and also facilitating the commission of crime by arranging vehicles, fire arms, etc. Almost similar allegations are found even against accused number 5, 7, 11 and 17, who have been granted regular bail by this court," the judge observed.

Totally 18 persons, who were arraigned as accused in the chargesheet, are facing trial in the case.

Also, the court noted that the apex court had on August 20, 2024 dismissed the petitions filed by the State government questioning the High Court's December 2023 order of granting bail to N. Mohan Nayak (accused number 11) on the ground of delay in progress of the trial.

The apex court had recorded the statement made on behalf of the State government that "... so far 137 witnesses have been examined by the prosecution, 137 witnesses have been dropped and the prosecution is also likely to drop 150 more witnesses, and now about 100 witnesses are still to be examined."

While noticing that accused Mohan Nayak had cooperated for trial and had not sought adjournment, the apex court had directed the trial court to expedite the case and asked all the parties to cooperate.

However, the apex court gave liberty to the prosecution to seek cancellation of his bail if he violated any conditions of the bail or failed to cooperate for further trial and sought unnecessary adjournments.

4 from State excel at WorldSkills event

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Four people from Karnataka have won Medallions of Excellence at WorldSkills Lyon 2024. The 47th edition of the competition, held from September 10 to 15 in Lyon, France, had nine participants from Karnataka.

Among them, Prem Vasanth Kumar, Harshavardhan Vijay Khandare, Bhanuprasad Settihalli Mariswamy, and Darshan Gowda Chathralinganadoddi Shivalingaiah, won Medallions of Excellence in three skill categories.

Earlier in May, 62 participants from Karnataka competed in a national-level competition in New Delhi. Karnataka won 13 gold medals, 12 silver, four bronze, and 19 Medallions of Excellence at the event, securing the second position overall.

Owing to their exceptional performance at the national level, Mr. Vasanth Kumar (Additive Manufacturing), Mr. Khandare (Cooking), and Mr. Mariswamy and Mr. Shivalingaiah (both Mechatronics) were selected to represent India at the event in Lyon, said a release.

Sharan Prakash Patil, Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development, congratulated the winners.

He further stated: "In the coming days, our department will introduce more initiatives to transform Karnataka into a State known for skills and expertise".

KANNADA PUSTAKA PRADHIKARA
Kannada Bhavan, 1st Floor, J.C. Road, Bengaluru-560002.
Phone No: 080-22107704/22484516
Website : www.kannadapustakapradhikara.com
E-mail : kannadappradhikara@gmail.com

No. KPP/22/SS/2024-25 Date : 13-09-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Kannada Pusthaka Pradhikara is inviting Short Term E-Tender for publishing six volumes of Souvenirs containing the progress of Karnataka in various domains of Art, Literature, Agriculture, Industry, Science-technology and Education since Karnataka as a State came in to existence, under it's Campaign Karnataka Sambhrama-50". Tenders are invited from eligible bidders. **Approximate value of tender:** Rs. 20,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty lakhs). E-Tenders may be uploaded from 17.09.2024 to 01.10.2024. Tender documents and other details are available in the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact: The Administrative Officer, Kannada Book Authority, Kannada Bhavana, 1st Floor, J.C. Road, Bangalore - 560 002. Phone No. 080-22484516/22107704 And **https://kpp.karnataka.gov.in.**

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Administrative Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Shahid Khan Sadiq, Son of Sadiq Ulla Khan, resident of Amigo Estella, C-109, GKVK Road, SRK Nagar Post, Bengaluru-77, has intended and agreed to Purchase the Schedule Property from Syed Zakaulla, Son of Late Syed Rahman, resident of Ramanagara, If any person/s having claim/s Objection/s to the same, shall furnished in writing to the undersigned with proof, within a week from the date of publication of this notice. In the event of objections not received within a week, it shall be deemed that there is no objection to the sale transaction.

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Site No,299, Jakkur Panchayath Katha No.34/33/1/29, BBMP Khata No.34/33/1/299, New Khata No.11/34/33/1/299, Situated at 4th Cross, Shri Balaji Krupa Layout, Sampigehalli, R.K. Hegde Nagar, Bengaluru-77, Measuring East to West : 60 Feet and North to South 40 Feet, In all measuring 2400 Square Feet, bounded on East by: Road, West by :Private Property, North by: Site No. 298, and South by: Property bearing Site No. 300.

Bangalore,
Date: 13.09.2024

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

First Anniversary

Mrs Saroja Raman

We are blessed for each moment we had with you.

Deeply missed by:
Ramila & Rajiv Sreedhar, Family & Friends
and innumerable other lives that were touched by her boundless affection.
Directors, Staff and employees of:
MIL Industries & Aerospace Limited

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

First Anniversary

Smt. Saroja Raman

Embodiment of love and compassion and a guiding light to the family.
We deeply miss you. May you bless us throughout our lives.

Fondly remembered by
Ramesh Raman & **Malathi Raman**
Raghu Raman & **Rashmi Raman**
Grandchildren & **Family, Directors, Employess of MIL Family**
and **innumerable lives that were touched by her boundless affection.**
MIL INDUSTRIES LIMITED, Chennai.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

DOB: 17.09.1960
DOD: 17.03.2024

HEMALATHA ARULNAMBI

இங்கு நீயொரு பாதி நானொரு பாதி
இதில் யார் பிரிந்தாலும் வேதனை பாதி

Fondly remembered by **Arulnambi C K**
Mob: 98404-83988

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

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EXPLAINER

Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh was found to be the most suitable for introducing the cheetahs because of its habitat and adequate prey base. PTI

What is the current status of the introduction of African cheetahs?

Project Cheetah has encountered significant setbacks, including prolonged captivity and cheetah fatalities; with long-term success hinging on finding sufficient habitat, scientific management, and community support, the project's future depends on overcoming these enormous challenges

Ravi Chellam

The Cheetah Action Plan (CAP) represents India's ambitious effort to introduce African cheetahs into its ecosystems, with a focus on both conserving the species and restoring the health of savanna habitats. However, the project has faced several challenges since its inception, including extended captivity of the cheetahs and fatalities, raising questions about its long-term prospects.

What is Project Cheetah?

The CAP states that the translocation of a large carnivore, African cheetahs in this case, is a strategy to conserve threatened species and restore ecosystem functions. It also states that India plans to assist the Government of Iran, and the international conservation community with conserving the Asiatic cheetah and increasing its distribution range to include protected landscapes in India.

The CAP also says cheetahs will be a flagship species for the degraded dry-open forest/savanna ecosystems in India and increase the value of restoring and conserving them, as well as improve the fortunes of local communities through eco-tourism. It has been estimated that the released population should reach the carrying capacity of Kuno National Park in about 15 years and that of the wider Kuno landscape in 30-40 years. According to the CAP, the introduction programme requires long-term (at least 25 years) financial, technical, and administrative commitments from the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC), the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, and the Wildlife Institute of India.

Why are the African cheetahs in captivity?

Per the CAP, radio-collared male coalitions were to be released first from their holding enclosures (*bomas*) after a period of one to two months. The radio-collared females were to be released one to four weeks after the males, depending on how comfortable the males were in their new environment. India has missed these timelines. The quarantine period in Kuno for all the cheetahs was longer than specified. Once the cheetahs were released into the bomas, they endured a prolonged period of confinement. In fact, the 12 surviving adult cheetahs of the 20 brought from Africa have spent almost all of the last 12 months in captivity.

Such long-term captivity can only be interpreted as a misguided attempt by those managing the cheetahs to play it safe, possibly in the belief that the mortality of the cats can be mitigated in captivity and that they will also be easier to breed.

The problem? Captive cats quickly become unfit to be released to range free in the wild, which is Project Cheetah's objective. A Namibian policy categorically restricts the captivity period for wild large carnivores to three months. If the period exceeds this duration, the carnivore should either be euthanised or be held permanently in captivity.

As per this policy, the 12 adult cheetahs and the 12 cubs currently in Kuno are unfit to be released into the wild.

Why did so many cheetahs die after moving?

Deaths and births are part and parcel of the lives of all species. That said, in such international projects, utmost care should be taken to assess and choose individual animals before they are imported. Once the cats are in India, we are responsible for deploying the best available knowledge and management practices to ensure they thrive, not just survive.

There have been failures on both these fronts. One female cheetah imported from Namibia had a pre-existing and chronic renal ailment resulting in her death in captivity in March 2023. A male from South Africa died in captivity in April 2023 due to suspected hypokalaemia and the resulting acute heart failure. A female from South Africa died in captivity in May 2023 as she was mauled by a male coalition in an enclosure while the managers were trying to get her to mate. All three cats died before they were released at all.

In late May 2023, three of the four cubs born to Jwala were found dead due to heat stroke. Between July 11 and August 2, 2023, two males from South Africa (one free-ranging and the other in captivity) and one female from Namibia (free-ranging) died. The official reason was that these cats contracted dermatitis, followed by myiasis and septicaemia. The root cause was allegedly the growth of a winter coat during the Indian summer and monsoons. This is physiologically impossible since a shorter day length is required for the winter coat to grow.

In January 2024, a male from Namibia died in captivity due to septicaemia. In August 2024, another male from Namibia – the only free-ranging African cheetah in Kuno – died apparently due to drowning. A few cheetah researchers with decades of experience said none had heard of a single instance of a free-ranging cheetah drowning.

Two of the cubs born in a litter of six died in June and August 2024. One cub's spine was broken.

Why are the cheetahs located in Kuno?

The CAP states that 10 sites were surveyed in five central Indian States to determine their suitability for introducing African cheetahs. Of these, Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh was found to be the most suitable for introducing the cheetahs because of its habitat and adequate prey base.

But even in Kuno, the cheetahs have largely been held captive. About 80 sq. km has been fenced off in Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary and cheetahs were initially supposed to be released there by December 2023 or January 2024. Now the plan seems to be to introduce the cats in late 2024 or early 2025.

A captive breeding facility for the African cheetahs is being built in the Banni grasslands of Kachchh, Gujarat. Some cheetahs are likely to be housed here. Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh has also been mentioned as a potential site for introducing African cheetahs.

Who is responsible for the cheetahs?

An expert committee appointed by the NTCA and chaired by Rajesh Gopal has the overall responsibility for guiding the project. The NTCA and the MoEFCC are the institutions responsible for all high-level decision-making, including negotiating with the African countries to procure the cheetahs.

The Wildlife Institute of India has been providing technical inputs and the Madhya Pradesh Forest Department has been responsible for the field implementation.

Will Project Cheetah have measurable outcomes?

The CAP outlines both short-term and long-term success criteria for introducing cheetahs in India. In the short term, the goals include a 50% survival rate for the first year, cheetahs establishing home ranges, successful reproduction in the wild, and generating revenue for local communities through eco-tourism. These goals are currently not being met due to prolonged captivity, which contradicts the plan's original prescriptions. Long-term success is measured by cheetahs becoming a stable part of the ecosystem with natural survival rates, establishing a viable metapopulation, improving habitat quality and prey diversity, and benefiting local economies through sustainable conservation efforts.

Does Project Cheetah have a sunset clause?

In some sense, the long-term criteria for success like the establishment of a viable metapopulation in India should be viewed as the sunset clause. Such projects will need almost constant management attention.

The timelines stretch across a minimum of 15 years but more realistically 30 to 40 years, as per the CAP.

But the big question still remains: does India have sufficient habitat (4,000 to 8,000 sq. km) of the required quality to establish a viable population of free-ranging cheetahs in the wild?

Ravi Chellam is a wildlife biologist and conservation scientist based in Bengaluru. He is CEO of Metastring Foundation and Coordinator of Biodiversity Collaborative. The views expressed by him are independent and personal

THE DAILY QUIZ

September 17 marks the day when the princely State of Hyderabad merged with the Indian Union in 1948. Here is a quiz about key figures and events

Serish Nanisetti

QUESTION 1
He was the first and the last Agent-General of India in the princely State of Hyderabad. Name him.

QUESTION 2
He was born in present-day Bangladesh and was the first cousin of actress Devika Rani. In 1948, he secured the surrender of the Hyderabad armed forces in Secunderabad on September 18. Who was he?

QUESTION 3
He was the commander in chief of Hyderabad armed forces who surrendered to the Indian army in September 1948. Who was this soldier?

QUESTION 4
They were volunteers of armed men created by the Majlis Ittehadul Muslimeen in Hyderabad. They functioned as Nizam's stormtroopers and created a reign of terror in the interiors of Nizam's Dominion before the merger of the princely State. Name this group.

QUESTION 5
She unfurled the Indian flag in Hyderabad near the British Residency building on October 2, 1942, heeding the call of the Quit India movement, and went to jail. The zoological park in Darjeeling is named after her as she served as a Governor of that State for 11 years. Who was she?

QUESTION 6
The Nizam's army started bringing weapons from Pakistan into Hyderabad with an Australian pilot carrying on the surreptitious mission using WW-II vintage Lancasters in 1948. This movie director from Hyderabad, who was 13 then, confessed to throwing pebbles into the planes to disable them.

Visual Question:
The Tricolour fluttering on this colonial building was first unfurled on September 18, 1948. It is now the presidential retreat in winter, and a tourist destination the rest of the year in Hyderabad. What is this building called now?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. Which club won the inaugural season in 1929-30 and which one won the latest in 2023-24? **Ans: Barcelona and Real Madrid**
2. Who holds the record for having scored the most goals? **Ans: Lionel Messi**
3. Who are the two players holding the record for the most appearances? **Ans: Andoni Zubizarreta & Joaquin**
4. How many non-EU players can be named by a side for each match? **Ans: 3**
5. What is the name of the second division to which lowly placed clubs in La Liga are relegated? **Ans: Segunda division**
6. Name the founding member club of La Liga that got promoted for the current season. **Ans: Espanyol**
7. Which are the three founding clubs that have never been relegated from the prime division in La Liga history? **Ans: Real Madrid, Barcelona & Athletic Bilbao**
8. Who scored the first hat-trick in the 2024-25 season? **Ans: Raphinha for Barcelona against Valladolid**

Visual: Identify this legendary player. **Ans: Raul Gonzalez The only player to have appeared in 550 matches for a single club**

Early Birds: Tamal Biswas | Parimal Das | Arun Kumar Singh

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian Upendran

"Good morning!"

"Good morning indeed!"

"What do you mean 'Good morning indeed'?"

"Well, it seems strange that you wish me 'good morning' at 6 o'clock in the evening."

"What if it's 6.00 in the evening? I'm seeing you for the first time today, aren't I?"

"Yes."

"As I'm seeing you for the first time today, I must say 'good morning'."

"You can't do that. You wish someone good morning only if it's morning. That is before 12 noon."

"So the way you greet someone depends on the time of day you greet him/her."

"That's right."

"Wait a minute. Now it's 6.00 o'clock in the evening. So what do I say to you now? Good evening. And if I see you at 3.00 o'clock in the afternoon, I should say 'good afternoon', right?"

"Yes. As I said, the way you greet a person depends on the time of the day. If you meet someone before noon, you say 'good morning'. If you meet someone between noon and 6.00 o'clock in the evening, you greet him/her with a 'good afternoon'. Any time after 6.00 o'clock in the evening, you say 'good evening'."

"When do you say good night?"

"You say 'good night' when you bid someone good night. It's used only when you take leave of a person."

"So can I say 'good night' to you, if I take leave of you at 3.00 o'clock in the evening?"

"No."

"So 'good night' is said when you take leave of someone at night. Is that right?"

"Yes, that's right. And the usual response to good night is good night. Just as the usual response to..."

"Good morning is good morning and good afternoon is good afternoon. And when you take leave of a person in the morning or afternoon, you don't say 'good morning' or 'good afternoon'. Either you say 'good day' or the more usual 'good bye'..."

"Please stop. I see that you have understood."

"I certainly have. Well, I'd better get going."

"Where are you off to?"

"Gokul's house."

"What for?"

"Gokul met with a fatal accident this morning."

"How did it happen?"

"His car ran into a buffalo."

"A buffalo!"

"Yes. The poor chap is in terrible pain."

"Who, the buffalo?"

"I wouldn't refer to the buffalo as 'he', would I?"

"Then who are you talking about?"

"About Gokul, of course!"

"But I thought you said he was dead."

"I certainly did not."

"Didn't you say Gokul met with a fatal accident?"

"But I didn't say he died."

"But that's what you meant."

"No, I didn't."

"Listen, if you say someone was involved in a fatal accident, it means he/she died in that accident. Fatal accidents always result in someone's death."

"But this accident only resulted in Gokul breaking his collar bone."

"It wasn't a fatal accident."

"Thank goodness!"

Published in The Hindu on May 25, 1993

Word of the day

Censorious:
Harshly critical or expressing censure

Synonyms: disapproving, condemning, complaining

Usage: *She was surprised by the censorious tone of the review.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/censoriouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /sɛnˈsɔriəs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Wings of hope: Can Ramanagara revive its vulture population successfully?

Karnataka Forest Department and Karnataka Vulture Conservation Trust organises the 'Nature Walk and Vulture Observation' to build awareness about these birds

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The nature enthusiasts who gathered at the Ramadevarabetta vulture sanctuary on the morning of September 14 were one lucky batch. What awaited the group was a glorious view of the only pair of critically endangered long-billed vultures in the sanctuary, perched about 3,000 feet high on the crevice of a monolith that's characteristic of Ramanagara.

Two smudgy white patches to the naked eyes, they did some sun-basking, engaged in mating, hovered above the group for some time, and flew away finally in the direction of the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary.

"Last year, we couldn't spot any. Only by about 2 p.m. they made an appearance, and by then, most people had left," says Ramakrishnappa M., deputy conservator of forest, Ramanagara.

This year, however, on International Vulture Awareness Day, it seemed like the scavengers in the sanctuary wanted to show the humans a few things themselves.

The first Saturday of September is observed every year as International Vulture Awareness Day. The Karnataka Forest Department and Karnataka Vulture Conservation Trust organised the 'Nature Walk and Vulture Observation' to build awareness of the birds whose population in India declined by a staggering 99% between the 1980s and early 2000s.

Nature enthusiasts, forest officials, environmentalists, and bird watchers participating in the International Vulture Awareness Day Nature Walk and Vulture Observation . K. MURALI KUMAR

Spread over 346 hectares, Ramadevarabetta in Ramanagara near Bengaluru was declared India's first vulture sanctuary in 2012 to prevent the bird from going extinct in the region. K. MURALI KUMAR

First vulture sanctuary
According to wildlife biologist Darshan C.S., India has nine species of vultures. Of these, four - including long-billed, white-rumped, red-headed and Egyptian vultures - are seen in Karnataka.

In Ramadevarabetta, the permanent residents include the critically endangered long-billed vulture and the endangered Egyptian vulture. Himalayan Griffon and Eurasian Griffon visit the region in winter.

Spread over 346 hectares, Ramadevarabetta in Ramanagara near Bengaluru was declared India's first vulture sanctuary in 2012 to prevent the long-billed vulture from going extinct in the region. In 2017 it was declared an eco-sensitive zone.

Despite such efforts, it was initially feared that the numbers were not picking up after failed attempts at breeding the birds.

The fact that a female vulture lays only one egg per year was a major challenge to increasing the population.

Dwindling or growing?
On top of this, the construction of the Mysuru-Bengaluru highway through Ramanagara started in 2019, presenting an additional challenge.

"There were two pairs in the region till about 2019. But as part of controlled blasting for the expressway work, they blasted several boulders using dynamite. This continued to happen in the breeding seasons of 2018-19 and 2019-2020. The other pair disappeared due to these explosions," said Darshan.

Vultures spotted during the nature walk. K. MURALI KUMAR

This left the sanctuary with just one pair of long-billed vultures.

However, the pall of gloom started to lift in 2021. After a gap of seven years in 2022, the sanctuary reported the birth of a vulture chick.

According to Darshan, breeding activities have been successful for the last three years from 2021-22 to 2023-24.

He notes that the sanctuary presently has two adults and one juvenile, while Ramakrishnappa claims two pairs of long-billed vultures have been noticed in the area.

Chris Bowden.

"For the last three years, they have been hatching chicks successfully. The population is increasing, but the new birds are also exploring locations other than Ramdevarabetta for habitats. For example, some have observed them in the nearby Achalubetta forest area. Habitats shift, but in this area, two pairs are regularly visiting," he says.

A major fall
During the walk, there seems to be a small crowd around Chris Bowden all the time. Bowden, who works for the U.K.-based Royal Society of Protection of Birds, has spent the last 11 years in North Bengaluru trying to save vultures from going extinct.

People form a beeline behind the telescope he has mounted during the walk to take a look at the magnificent birds.

As I get my chance, I notice that one of the vultures is sitting in a drooping position with its long, slender neck bent and its wings in a half-open position, covering its head on either side.

"Why does it do that?" I wonder.

"If it's only for a brief while, it means it's resting. But if it's for a prolonged period, that could mean it's stressed. When the diclofenac issue was happening, many vultures were seen sitting like this," replies Bowden.

By now it's common knowledge how diclofenac, a commonly prescribed painkiller, was identified as a major culprit behind the huge fall in vulture populations in India.

Until 2006, it was widely prescribed for livestock. Consumption of carcasses of cattle that died within four days of taking in diclofenac turned out to be fatal for the scavenger birds as the molecule was toxic to them. It affected the functioning of their kidneys and resulted in renal failure.

In 2006, the government of India banned using diclofenac for veterinary needs. However, experts suggest that this is not entirely adhered to.

"There is no disputing that this is still the number one threat. The ban in 2006 was the most important conservation measure for vultures. And the Indian government is to be credited for that. But human diclofenac is still misused by some vets, so it's not completely gone," Bowden says.

Pointing out that Nimesulide, a diclofenac drug that can kill vultures, is still legally available in pharmacies in Ramanagara, he notes that the vultures in the region are not entirely safe yet.

"These vultures have been luckily dodging it so far, they have been going into Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary. But from faecal sample analysis, we know that these birds still eat 40% cattle. So, they are really at risk."

Other reasons for the dwindling population of vultures include electrocution, habitat loss, construction of buildings, resorts and roads, and scarcity of food resources.

While Bowden notes that the population trends in India for vultures are stable and not recording a decrease, he also points out that it is not showing a sharp recovery.

Steps by State govt.
In 2020, the government of Karnataka announced plans to set up a vulture breeding centre in Bannerghatta at a cost of ₹2 Crore. The idea was to breed them at Bannerghatta National Park and release them in Ramdevarabetta. However, the centre hasn't taken off yet.

About the other ongoing efforts, Darshan says, "We are planning to estimate the population of Egyptian vultures and white-rumped vultures. In Ramanagara South, we have Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary where there is an abundant number of white-rumped vultures. Along with Karnataka Forest Department, we are planning to set up camera traps in the region so that we can examine and do much more research on them."

He also notes that there are outreach and awareness programmes being carried out.

Meanwhile Ramakrishnappa is hopeful.

"We have had vulture chicks in the last three years at Ramdevarabetta. This is the fourth year, and we pray we get one this year too."

Journalist Pradip K. Saha wins best Business Book Award

Pradip K. Saha and Ajai Chowdhry.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Learning Trap: How Byju's Took Indian Edtech for a Ride, a book by journalist Pradip K. Saha, has won the seventh 2024 BBLF CK Prahalad Best Business Book Award. The announcement was made at the 10th edition of the Bangalore Business Literature Festival held on September 14. The award was presented by Ajai Chowdhry, co-founder of HCL Ltd.

According to a press release, *The Learning Trap* is an investigative work on how a multi-billion-dollar valuation company fumbled and is now fighting for survival. It is a lesson for companies that focus excessively on the valuation route instead of a profitable route for growth. It is also a big lesson for start-up founders on the importance of governance and stakeholder transparency.

The book was inspired by the author asking a simple question - where was hundreds of millions of investor money going and what were the learning outcomes? Much before he could stumble on the answers The Morning Context had uncovered the dark underbelly of ed-tech and how the biggest ed-tech company could become the biggest write-down in India's tech start-up history. The book is published by juggernaut.

The jury included journalist and climate activist Madhur Singh, innovation consultant Bhupendra Sharma and IIM Ahmedabad professor Mukesh Sood.

Milaap Foundation launches handbook to help navigate Bengaluru's healthcare landscape

Making Healthcare Accessible in Bengaluru: A Caretaker's Handbook can be a helpful guide for those who come to Bengaluru from other States and countries seeking medical treatment

Ipsita Misra
BENGALURU

Milaap Foundation, a leading medical crowdfunding platform in India, launched a handbook titled *Making Healthcare Accessible in Bengaluru: A Caretaker's Handbook* on Friday in the city.

(From left) Dr. Sonal Asthana, Shri Dinesh Gundu Rao, Dr. Shalini Nalwad, Mr. Anoj Viswanathan.

Important contacts
The book is a guide to those who come to Bengaluru from other States and countries seeking medical treatment. It also lists urgent blood banks, if necessary, and contact numbers of ambulances and pharmacies. "There is a high volume of people who come from West Bengal and the northeast," said Anoj Vishwanathan, co-founder of Milaap, at a panel discussion held at the launch.

"When they arrive, they find a very different culture here, and our book is going to help them navigate through bus routes to hospitals, the cuisine of their taste, and places to stay within a 3km radius of the hospital they are going to."

Essentially, Milaap has mapped a patient's journey after coming to Bengaluru to devise the handbook.

The book is not only helpful for patients coming from outside of Bangalore but for medical professionals as well. "Most of the time when patients come and ask where they can find a place to stay we have no idea what to tell them, but with this handbook we will have some knowledge about that," said Dr Sonal, a liver transplant surgeon, who was also part of the panel.

Four languages
Dinesh Gundu Rao, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, who launched the book, said, "I would like to congratulate Milaap for having decided to come out with this handbook which can be of great assistance to people. It is a very good initiative."

The book is being launched in four languages – English, Kannada, Bengali, and Hindi – for now. Currently, Milaap is working with 40-50 hospitals in Bengaluru to spread awareness about this book so that patients have an easier time navigating through their medical treatments.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 17, 1974

Dairy Project to be Launched on Oct. 24

Bangalore, Sept. 16. The Rs. 51 wore World Bank assisted Dairy Development Project of Karnataka, will be launched on October 24 following the signing of an agreement recently in Washington. The Minister for Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Mr. Chikke Gowda, who announced this at a news conference here to-day said that under the project, the International Dairy Development Association (IDDA) would give assistance of Rs. 24 crores ($30 millions). Of the remaining Rs. 27 crores, Rs. 10 crores would be raised through banks and the Central and State Governments together would contribute about Rs. 17 crores.

Cattle fodder plants, a milk powder plant, dairy development activities including cattle breeding, and other projects supporting activities would be taken up under the project.

Autorickshaws Off the Road in Bangalore

Bangalore, Sept. 16: The 7,000 and odd auto rickshaws in Bangalore were off the road to-day, following a lightning strike by the auto drivers in protest against the recent Government order reducing the minimum fare to 45 paise from 90 paise.

The autorickshaw drivers numbering about 200 came in a procession driving their vehicles to the Vidhana Soudha to convey their protest to the Government. Later, they held a protest meeting at Cubbon Park. They decided to meet tomorrow to chalk out their future course of action.

Capturing lovely moments with powerful visuals

Award-winning cinematographer Jagadish Gowda talks about what keeps him hooked to the world of the lens

Shilpa Anandraj

The teaser of the film, *Maarige Daari*, garnered over 1.6 lakh views a few days after its release on YouTube. Directed by Agastya, who has also written the story and screenplay, it is the cinematography by Jagadish Gowda that has become the talk of the town.

The two-minute teaser keeps you hooked with its brilliant play of fire, light and dancing sparks, creating visuals that stay on in your mind for long.

Framed Cinematographer Jagadish Gowda (far right), stills from a few of his movies. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jagadish , who is also the editor of *Maarige Daari*, describes his craft as "Cinematography is about capturing beautiful moments with powerful visuals."

Cinema is not new to the self-taught cinematographer-editor. Jagadish , started his cinematic journey with the short film *Karta*, directed by Partha Sarathy and released under the banner Mathana films. "I directed a short film, *Royal* in 2016 and was not happy with the cinematography. That is when I started researching and studying anything and everything to do with cinematography to see why the visuals I had in mind were not recreated on the screen."

That is when Jagadish discovered that his strength lay in cinematography and editing. "In 2018, when a group of friends and I decided to make *Karta,* I took the plunge, editing and shooting the film." Unlike most editors or cinematographers, Jagadish feels the two disciplines compliment each other. "You know what you want from both perspectives, which makes the work process easier and shorter."

Karta, a thriller, had a successful stint on the festival circuit and won awards including the BMW India's Best cinematographer award, Best cinematographer award at the Praguni Short Film Festival and National Short Film Festival. *Karta* was also the official selection at the International Short Film Festival SIIMA.

" In 2020, we released the film on YouTube." Jagadish , a B.Com graduate from Bengaluru's Vijaya College, is awaiting the release of *Maarige Daari,* which is in post production. He is working as a cinematographer for *Pajjala,* directed by Bhairava Bansi and produced by Sukesh KC.

Jagadish does not see a difference between short films and full length features. "Short films opened the door for me into feature films. The same amount of effort and passion go into both mediums, irrespective of the duration of the film."

Not coming from a film background, Jagadish says he did face slight resistance from his family when he said he was venturing into the world of films. "Now they are my biggest cheerleaders. At first, they were hesitant, but when they saw my work in *Karta* and the awards I received, they worry no more. I have been able to achieve whatever little I have only because of them."

A fan of black-and-white photography Jagadish , describes the work of old school cinematographers as magical. "We work in the digital space now and have to change our technique to suit the world we are currently living in. I am a huge fan of Roger Deakins. Nothing matches his short divisions on screen and the lighting he uses."

Jagadish says Deakins narrates the film in a signature style. "I hope to follow his work methods in my own small way. In *Maarige Daari*, I have used natural lighting and a set colour palette. Half the battle is won with powerful visuals and strong content. There is exposure to so many cinematic experiences, we need to show the exceptional."

An East-West connect, courtesy a violin duo

Charumathi Supraja

The visual story of 'Nakshatra' - a concert performed at Bangalore International Centre by violin duo Arun Ramamurthy and Trina Basu, reflected two musicians seated side by side on a gently lit stage, the aural narrative spanned a richly detailed, living canvas of music that could be as large as you wanted it to be. The music of Arun and Trina produced a now-you-see-them-now-you-don't effect on their individual playing styles and musical backgrounds.

The duo brought their music from Brooklyn (New York) to Bengaluru while on a visit to India with their family. Touring Kolkata and Bengaluru in their first ever Indian concert series as a violin duo, they presented snippets from their first album, among other musical pieces. Their music didn't just allow for brand new visualisations of ancient musical systems, it pointed to the potential of music as a whole, if music education were to become as institutionalised in India as it is in the West.

The concert began with a musical piece dedicated to Lenapehoking (Lenape Land) or Prospect Park in New York, where the indigenous people of the region had lived in sync with Nature, before colonisation. Prospect Park, Trina said, had provided "great refuge during the pandemic, when the only sounds were of birds and ambulances." Set to the popular raga Abheri, the composition was rooted in important ecological and ethical concerns that would be a recurring concert motif.

Their next piece 'Tempest' carried the imprint of clarity that comes after a storm. Woven of ragas Gowri Manohari and Vachaspati, for me, it raised questions on how music sourced from such disparate spaces can sound so unified. 'Migration,' in Mohanam raga, was inspired by the journey their families had taken from Bengaluru and erstwhile Calcutta to the U.S.

The next two pieces probed Nature's elements and erratic weather patterns . While progressive notes from raga Hemavati

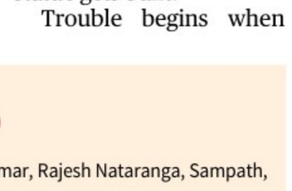
Melody makers Trina Basu and Arun Ramamurthy. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

conjured up spirals of the Fibonacci sequence, the duo's harmonic arrangement of 'Sri Kamalambike' in Sree raga highlighted how SRMP and MPNS when played together can become a compounded musical treat. The duo's reimagining of this Muthuswami Dikshitar composition brought to mind the history of the violin as a once purely western instrument, credited with being adapted to Carnatic music by his brother Baluswami Dikshitar. The shared musical vocabulary of Arun and Trina took that adaptation to new heights. The subsequent musical pieces were also informed by American folk, Carnatic, Jazz and film music, among other genres. The duo's style of deep listening and making space for the other's expression opened up myriad shades of music.

Having been introduced to each other in 2007 by Arun's Carnatic music teacher, Mysore Manjunath (after Trina had spent a year training in India), Arun and Trina played together in a local Carnatic ensemble, Akshara, shortly after. A "shared musical chemistry," as Trina puts it, led to two years of "practicing together, sharing stories, musical ideas and approaches to the instrument," Arun says. They started "composing and performing together as a duo around 2012," he adds. Their intent, Trina says, is to "make music, unapologetically from the heart and stretch creative possibilities," while Arun adds that they "hope to make music that addresses real world issues."

"Experimenting with elements and techniques that exist in the different violin traditions (Indian raga/tala, western chamber music, counterpoint, harmony, fiddle/folk) has given us an expansive palette of colours to compose with. That is a great win for us!" says Trina. Arun is inspired by the "feeling of letting go and letting the subconscious take over" in their musical collaboration that he sees as an attempt to "look inward and make music that is meaningful" to them and to audiences.

Still life Scenes from *Kaalapatthar*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



FILM REVIEW

An intriguing take on the politics of statues

Vivek MV

In a touching scene in *Kaalapatthar,* an old lady complains about the lack of water in her place. She gives a reality check to the village chief, who is decked up for the Independence Day celebration, ignorant of the issues faced by the people of Moodalapalya. Shankar (Vikky Varun), a Border Security Force (BSF) jawan, watches the scene with guilt. He knows that the root cause of all the problems faced by his folks is his statue, which has become the talking point of the village.

Political leaders get slammed for building statues and distracting people's attention from important matters. Leaders get questioned if they wish to keep a particular group of people happy by spending lakhs on statues, even as they ignore the plight of under-previleged people.

Varun, who also has directed the film and co-written the screenplay with D Satya Prakash and Raghu Nandan, takes up this heavy subject and makes it palatable for viewers by setting the story against a rural backdrop. Naturalistic performances and earthy dialogues enhances the film's flavour.

In *Kaalapatthar,* the village chief, pressurised by the media, commissions a statue of Shankara. At the same time, the MLA (Rajesh Nataranga) proudly says in a speech that he would have built a taller statue if people had discussed the plan with him. Amid people in power plotting personal gains, the locals get denied basic facilities such as water, bus service, and proper roads.

So why did the statue get erected in the first place? Shankara, who is assigned the duty of a cook at the BSF, cuts vegetables instead of firing bullets in a war. Back in his home town, people presume him to be toiling hard on the battlefield, but Shankara is confined to the kitchen. Everything changes when he showcases his brave side by single handedly fighting men from the enemy camp. Shankara becomes a nationwide sensation, so much so that his statue gets built.

Trouble begins when Shankara starts to experience the things that happen to the statue. For instance, when the statue gets soaked in rain, Shankara gets drenched as his roof leaks. When this freakish pattern repeats too often, he wonders if it is a mere coincidence, his illusion, or if there is something really fishy about it.

The film takes a delightful turn when the protagonist turns grey. A selfish Shankara does everything to protect the statue because he believes his life depends on it. A soldier, perceived as fearless, is reduced to a tepid man by a lifeless statue built with black stones (*Kaalapatthar* in Hindi and hence the title).

The film jumps from one conflict to another without a break, and you get the feeling that it ends without a bang. The transitions in the screenplay seem too quick, giving us less time to process the twists in the movie. Yet, the film's story, as a whole, is rock solid. And the director in Varun is in control of executing the important scenes. Anoop Seelin deserves special credit as his stylish score with unique beats beautifully reflects the everydayness of a village.

We live in a time when powerful people build their own statues when they are alive. *Kaalapatthar* tries to say that even as they enjoy the attention and accolades, they must not forget their duties.

Kaalapatthar is currently running in theatres

Kaalapatthar (Kannada movie)
Director: Vikky Varun
Cast: Vikky Varun, Dhanya Ramkumar, Rajesh Nataranga, Sampath, TS Nagabharana
Run time: 113 minutes
Story line: A sleepy village comes alive thanks to the statue of a soldier from their town. Trouble begins when people begin to use the statue to their advantage

CITYBEATS

Bazaar with a cause

SEPTEMBER 18, 19
FICCI FLO Art and Culture Vertical Bengaluru presents Kala Bazaar, an exhibition showcasing paintings, sculptures, furniture pieces, stained-glass jewellery and digital art with an auction of a charcoal drawing and sculpture by Arun Yogiraj. Proceeds from the art show will go towards supporting Gulab Seva, an NGO that supports cervical cancer.
At Bangalore International Centre (BIC), Domlur.

Super six

ONGOING
An art show, titled *Collective Resonance*, is currently underway. It is a group exhibition of six artists showcased by Gallery Charvi, founded by Chandar Kumar and is being hosted at the MKF Museum of Art. Ashwini Hegde, MG Doddamani, Paul Chiranjit, Prabu Harsoor, Shashi Bharati and Vaman Pai are the artists who are a part of this show.
The show will be on till September 11. Call 9591119592.

Classic cocktails

ONGOING
To celebrate International Negroni Week, Tascano, an Italian fine-dining restaurant, will showcase classic and innovative Negroni variations – traditional classic Negroni (gin, campari, and rosso vermouth), boulevardier (bourbon whiskey, Campari, and Cinzano Rosso), Negroni sabligato and Kingston Negroni (dark rum, campari, and cinzano rosso). All cocktails are priced at ₹695.
On till September 22 at Tascano

6 held for throwing stones at masjid in Mangaluru: police

Muslims participated in ID procession on B.C. Road in Mangaluru on Monday even after VHP tried to stop the event. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Mangaluru Police arrested six persons for allegedly throwing stones at a masjid at Katipalla near Surathkal on Sunday night. The arrested persons are Bharath Shetty, 26, Channappa Shivanand Chalavadi, 19, both from Kana Katla, Nitish Hadapa, 22, of Chelyaru, Sujith Shetty, 23, of Muchhooru, Annappa, 24, of Hosabettu village, and Preetam Shetty, 34, of Katipalla.

The police said they came on two motorcycles behind the masjid in Katipalla 3rd block, which was illuminated for Id, around 10 p.m. on Sunday and threw stones at it. The windowpanes were damaged.

The incident occurred nearly an hour after Y. Bharath Shetty, Mangaluru City North MLA, and the local MLA, issued a statement calling upon police to ban Id processions scheduled on Monday following reports that these processions might be used to disrupt peace in the city.

Following a complaint by the president of masjid, K.H. Abdul Rehman, Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal set up a special team of Surathkal Police led by Inspector Mahesh Prasad to trace the accused. The accused were arrested from a hideout near Kadri Manjunatha temple. A car, two motorcycles, and four mobile phones of the accused were seized.

Bharath Shetty is an accused in 12 criminal cases, while Channappa is an accused in five criminal cases. Annappa and Preetam Shetty are accused in two criminal cases each, and Nitish Hadapa is an accused in one criminal case, the police said.

Meanwhile, the police have tightened security across the jurisdiction of Mangaluru Commissionerate to prevent any other untoward incident from taking place in view of throwing stones at the mosque. The police have also increased the night rounds.

Curbs in Malappuram after Nipah death, 126 primary contacts quarantined

Wearing masks have been made mandatory in district; five wards in Tiruvali, Mampad panchayats are declared containment zones; educational institutions and cinema halls will remain closed

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

Another war against virus: Doctors from Kozhikode Medical College shifting the Nipah patient to an ICU in the hospital in July after he contracted the disease in Kerala. REUTERS

The district administration has imposed restrictions on social gatherings and made masks mandatory in Malappuram district after a 24-year-old man from Naduvath, near Wandoor, died from the Nipah viral infection.

Five wards in Tiruvali and Mampad grama panchayats have been declared containment zones. Schools, colleges, madrasas, anganwadis and cinema halls in these zones will remain closed until the Nipah restrictions are lifted.

District Collector V.R. Vinod has advised people to wear masks in public places. Students and teachers in schools and colleges in the district should wear mask on the campus.

The victim was a student in Bengaluru. Fifteen classmates, who attended his funeral, have been placed under observation. As many as 175 people who had contact with the victim have been quarantined. As many as 74 of them are health workers.

Health Minister Veena George said on Monday that 126 of them were on the primary contact list and 49 on the secondary. As many as 104 of those on the primary list were in high-risk category, Ms. George said. Ten of them were under treatment at the Government Medical College Hospital, Manjeri. Serum samples of 13 people have been collected for testing and the results are awaited, she said.

Control room numbers

The Health Department has opened a Nipah control room. Anyone showing symptoms, especially from the Tiruvali, Wandoor and Mampad areas, should reach out to the control room at (0483) 2732010/60.

Wards 4, 5, 6 and 7 of Tiruvali panchayat and Ward 7 of Mampad panchayat have been declared containment zones. Mr. Vinod said that all gatherings in these zones should be avoided. Shops and business establishments there will be permitted to function from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

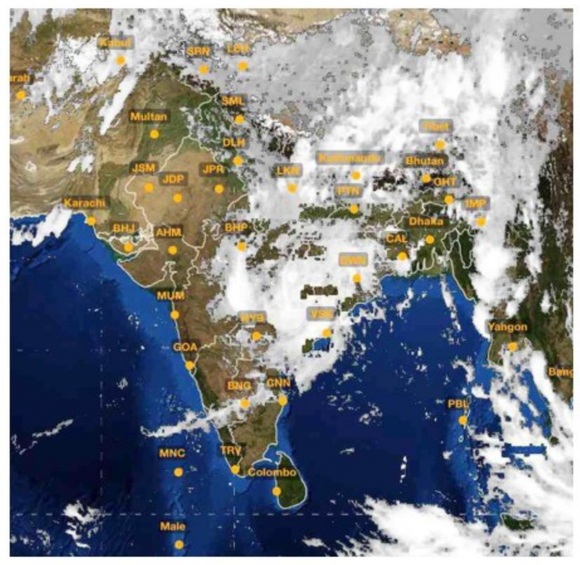
District Medical Officer R. Renuka said that anyone with symptoms of fever and related diseases should not resort to self-medication. They should seek treatment from a doctor instead. Fruits fallen off trees and suspected to have been touched by birds and bats should not be eaten, she said.

The department on Monday released the route map of the Nipah victim from the day he started showing symptoms on September 4. He had stayed at home on September 4 and 5. On September 6, he visited Fasil Clinic between 11.30 a.m. and noon in his car, then Babu Ayurveda Clinic between 7.30 p.m. and 7.45 p.m., and JMC Clinic at Wandoor between 8.15 p.m. and 10.30 p.m.

On September 7, he visited the Nilambur police station between 9.20 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. in an autorickshaw, and NIMS Hospital, Wandoor, at 7.45 p.m. He was at NIMS Hospital ICU from 8.25 p.m. to 1 p.m. on September 8. He reached M.E.S. Medical College Hospital, Perinthalmanna, on September 8 afternoon, where he died on September 9. Health workers have begun surveying all houses within three-kilometre radius from the victim's house. As many as 1,928 houses were reached out on Monday.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and sub-Himalayan West Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1	34.2	26.2	Kozhikode	—	34.4	25.7
Ahmedabad	—	33.4	24.8	Kurnool	—	32.6	24.1
Aizawl	0.9	33.1	23.1	Lucknow	—	33.7	26.5
Allahabad	—	33.1	27.3	Madurai	—	40.3	26.4
Bengaluru	—	29.9	19.8	Mangaluru	—	30.8	23.9
Bhopal	—	32.2	21.4	Mumbai	30	31.8	23.5
Bhubaneswar	—	33.0	25.9	Mysuru	—	32.3	20.0
Chandigarh	8	33.9	22.1	New Delhi	—	34.1	24.2
Chennai	—	38.4	27.8	Patna	3	29.5	26.9
Coimbatore	—	34.6	23.2	Port Blair	—	31.5	26.2
Dehradun	—	33.7	21.8	Puducherry	—	38.0	27.3
Gangtok	21	19.5	17.6	Pune	—	32.0	21.2
Goa	13	31.6	24.6	Raipur	—	30.6	25.3
Guwahati	—	35.2	26.5	Ranchi	38	23.7	21.6
Hubballi	—	29.0	21.0	Shillong	0.1	24.7	17.0
Hyderabad	—	30.2	23.5	Shimla	1	26.4	17.4
Imphal	—	31.7	20.1	Srinagar	—	29.5	12.0
Jaipur	—	34.0	24.9	Thiruvananthapuram	3	32.4	25.0
Kochi	—	30.6	26.4	Tiruchi	0.4	37.8	26.4
Kohima	—	27.5	17.8	Vijayawada	—	34.2	26.2
Kolkata	13	28.6	25.0	Visakhapatnam	—	34.4	28.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	10	38	19	103	98	
Bengaluru	6	23	94	47	49	
Chennai	5	32	14	65	60	
Delhi	9	69	72	319	333	
Hyderabad	26	25	40	50	66	
Kolkata	6	33	69	27	54	
Lucknow	10	10	41	191	97	
Mumbai	3	27	20	87	104	
Pune	—	44	44	53	67	
Visakhapatnam	7	39	22	79	101	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 254 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

WCC flags bid to jeopardise privacy of women who testified before Hema panel

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Women in Cinema Collective (WCC), an advocacy group that champions women's rights and equality of sexes in the entertainment industry, has alerted Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan of what it terms as an attempt to expose the identity and jeopardise the privacy of women artistes and technicians who deposed before the K. Hema Committee, which documented scores of instances of allegedly pervasive sexual exploitation and abuse in the Malayalam movie industry.

In a Facebook post on Monday, the WCC singled out a Malayalam television news channel for allegedly conducting a trial by media based on cherry-picked information, insinuations and innuendos, which the WCC feared could potentially reveal the identity of the survivors who braved personal and professional odds to testify before the committee. The WCC said the "irresponsible reporting" has put the women in severe distress and instilled anxiety in them. It accused the news channel of causing more grief to survivors while projecting itself as a protector of their rights.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Raju Ram S/o. Mr.Dhaglaram,** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Sri. Narasimhamurthy S/o.Late.Munishamappa;** any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the property bearing No.51/55/1, PID No. 150200401100300067, situated at Doddagubbi village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East, measuring East to West 6.4008 Meters and North to South 30.48 Meters , in all measuring 195.09 Square Meters and bounded on :

East by : D.P. Rajashekar Property, West by : 3 feet Pathway and Dyvanna son's Property, North by : Junjanna son's Property and Land, South by : Government road.

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 080-48658774
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

(ABOUT LOST OF ORIGINAL SALE DEED)

The public are hereby notified that my clients **Smt. G Sarojamma W/O Venkataramaiah,** aged about 60 years, residing at No. 129, Agrahara Dasarahalli, Bangalore-560 079 is the owner of the below mentioned property and she has acquired the said property under a registered sale deed dated 27.03.2008 vide **Document No.LAG-1-07207-2007-08 of Book-1 stored in C.D No. LAGD18** registered in the office of the Sub-Register, Laggere, Bangalore, my clients have lost above said original sale deed dated 27.03.2008 and she has lodged a **complaint on 23.08.2024 vide Reference No 556/2024 before the Hosakote town Police Station, Bangalore**. If any person found the said document, please inform below mentioned address or to my client. **Within 7 Days** If any persons misuse the said document he will file a criminal case against him/them.

SCHEDULE

Eastern side of the Property bearing Site No. 129 Katha No. 33/1, measuring 15 X 45 feet situated at Hosahalli, Gollarapalya Village, Yeshawanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP, and bounded on: **East by** : Site No.130, **West by**: Remaining Western side of same site No.129,**North by:** Road, **South by:** Site No.140

Manjunatha K K Advocate
No.21/2, 1st Floor, 1st Main Opp.
Indian Overseas Bank,Gandhinagar,
Bangalore-560 009.
Mob: 9606240545

Place: Bangalore
Date: 14-09-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

(ABOUT LOST OF ORIGINAL SALE DEED)

The public are hereby notified that my clients (1) **Sri K.M Basavarajappa S/O Mallappa, aged about 28 years and (2) Shaila, D/O K.H Eshwarappa, aged about 27 years,** both are residing at No. 34 Govindashettypalya, Electronic City, Hosur road, Bangalore-560 100, is the owners of the below mentioned property and they have acquired the said property under a registered sale deed dated 28.02.2006 vide **Document No. BLN-1-29853-2005-06 of Book-1 stored in C.D. No. BLND226** registered in the office of the Sub-Register Bangalore North Taluk, my clients have lost above said original sale deed dated 28.02.2006 and they have lodged a **complaint on 23.08.2024 vide Reference No 556/2024 before the Hosakote Town Police Station, Bangalore.** If any person found the said document, please inform below mentioned address or to my client. within 7 days. If any persons misuse the said document he will file a criminal case against him/them.

SCHEDULE

Eastern side of the Property bearing Site No. 129 Katha No. 33/1, measuring 15 X 45 feet situated at Hosahalli, Gollarapalya Village, Yeshawanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently comes under the jurisdiction of BBMP, and bounded on : **East by:** Site No.130, **West by:** remaining Western side of same site No. 129, **North by** : Road, **South by :** Site No. 140

Manjunatha K K Advocate
No.21/2, 1st Floor, 1st Main Opp.
Indian Overseas Bank,Gandhinagar,
Bangalore-560 009.
Mob: 9606240545

Place: Bangalore
Date: 14-09-2024

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No: SBC-GSU-ENGG-2024-02

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Name of work	Approx. Value
SGT YARD: Provision of NMG Checking Facility on existing Road 06. **Sub Work-I:** Construction of Pit line for a length of 700 m and connected works. **Sub Work-II:** Covered shed for road crane and staff vehicle adjacent to new building (19m x 16m). **Sub Work-III:** M&P maintenance building.	**Rs. 7,18,06,415.89/-**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 28.09.2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Chief Project Manager / Gati Shakti / Bengaluru

PUB/424/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No: CPMGSU-2024-02 Dated: 06.09.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Composite Tender: Upgradation / Modernization works such as provision of Covered shed over wharf area, lighting arrangement, drainage, renovation of merchant and labour rest room, compound wall etc., at SMET Good shed.	**Rs. 29,75,74,381.54/-**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 28.09.2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Chief Project Manager / Gati Shakti Unit Mysuru

PUB/428/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that My self Mr Sushil Bajirao Patole, I am planning to buy the Property bearing Flat No 205, 2nd floor, having super built up area 855 Sft along with 436 Sq ft of Undivided share in Schedule A Property, the building known as "Daffodils III" having present BBMP Katha No 671/205, formed in municipal No 4/8, situated at Jakkur plantation road Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, **by SBI housing loan through State Bank of india (Yelahanka new town branch code -06706).**

The said property belongs to **Smt. Shalini Sah (W/o) Sri Saurabh Sah,** Aged about 51 Years , Residing at No 209, Mb5, KHB, Surya City, Phase-I, Anekel Road, Chandapura, Bangalore - 560099, Who is the present owner of below mentioned property and she was having original sale deed dated 30.08.2000, vide Document no 2614/2000-01, Book-I, Volume No.ADR1157, at pages 180 to 184, dated 31.08.2000 registered in the office of sub-register Yelahanka, Bangalore, in respect of Property bearing Flat No 205, 2nd floor, having super built up area 855 Sft along with 436 Sq ft of Undivided share in Schedule A Property, the building known as "Daffodils III" having present BBMP Katha No 671/205,formed in municipal No 4/8, situated at Jakkur plantattion Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and the aforesaid Original Sale Deed dated 30.08.2000, in last page i.e. Page No-5 has been lost/ Mispalced while shifting the house at No 209, MB-5, KHB,Surya City, Phase-I, Anekel Road, Chandapura Bangalore-560099 on 17.07.2024 and she has made best efforts in tracing the same but efforts were in vain, Further she lodged a police complaint in this reagrding on 17.07.2024 with E-lost report No.1149567/ 2024. if anyone found the aforesaid document page no 5 may return to me or anyone having any sort of claim over the said property may lodge their objections in writing within 7 days from this day to the undersigned.

Date: 14.09.2024
Place: Bangalore.

Shamvel Patole Advocate
Mob: 7798125693 .
(Mr Sushil Bajirao Patole).
Address: Daffodils III, flat No. 205, Jakkur plantation road, Bangalore 560064.
Mob: 8806802797

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number		Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	South West-2	BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/1628/ 2024-25 Date: 11.09.2024	1	Rs.52,86,566/- / Rs.1,05,800/-	01.10.2024 upto 4:00 PM	03.10.2024 after 4:00 PM
2			2	Rs.18,69,753/- / Rs.46,800/-		
3		BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/1628/ 2024-25 Date: 11.09.2024 (Reserved for ST Category)	3	Rs.38,64,244/- / Rs.38,700/-		
4		BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/1628/ 2024-25 Date: 11.09.2024	4	Rs.19,16,372/- / Rs.48,000/-		
5			5	Rs.9,25,371/- / Rs.23,200/-		
6		BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/1628/ 2024-25 Date: 11.09.2024 (Reserved for SC Category)	6	Rs.13,72,956/- / Rs.17,200/-		

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (South West-2)**

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurment process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/BCPL/2009/2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have entered into an agreement to purchase the Schedule property from its Owners: **SMT. LAVANYA RAMAKANTH** and her husband **SRI. R. RAMAKANTH,** S/o Late T.V. Ramakrishna, both residing at: No.45, 1st Main, 4th Stage, BEML Layout, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore-560098.

Apart from the said Owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule Property by the aforesaid Owners, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Municipal No.57 (Old No.39/57), PID No.50-25-57, measuring East to West 15.6 feet and North to South 29.6 feet, with a building thereon, situated at Surveyor Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore, within the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.143 - Visveshwarapuram Ward and bounded on:

East by : Private Property bearing No.40,
West by : Private Property bearing No.38,
North by : Private Property bearing No.38,
South by : Road.

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**
Advocate
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

Down to the wire

The U.S. presidential race is poised on a knife's edge

A second, apparent attempt on the life of former U.S. President and Republican candidate for the White House, Donald Trump, has again lent an air of drama to the unfolding U.S. election campaign. Unlike the first such attempt, in Pennsylvania in mid-July, and in which a shooter's bullet hit Mr. Trump's ear, a man with a rifle at the golf club where Mr. Trump was located was confronted by the Secret Service and taken into custody. While the two attempts may win Mr. Trump some sympathy votes on November 5, it remains to be seen whether these incidents impact the public psyche sufficiently to tip the race in his favour. As it stands, the race between Mr. Trump and his Democratic rival, Vice-President Kamala Harris, is poised on a knife's edge, with the latest national average of polls putting Ms. Harris ahead by three percentage points – 49%. Yet, analysts argue that the difference is not beyond the margin of statistical error, which would make it unwise to assume a winner based on the current trend.

Leaving aside unexpected or shock events that could dramatically shift the terms of the race between now and voting day, the old election adage and past statistical observation that a greater turnout may benefit Democrats will likely hold true in 2024. Indeed, in the 2022 mid-term elections, the performance of Republicans, who were on a strong wicket after incumbent President Joe Biden's approval rating had fallen to relatively low levels, was dented by Democratic Party supporters who turned out in greater numbers in the wake of the Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe vs Wade* on the federal right to abortion. Similarly, Democrats may have felt encouraged after the first Trump-Harris presidential debate, wherein Mr. Trump made unfounded allegations about immigrants eating the pets of Americans. Immigration reform has always been a thorny issue that has punctured the campaign of many a previous presidential candidate or the policy plans of elected representatives. Mr. Trump already alienated many voters during his first term and campaign when he implemented his so-called "Muslim ban" – travel to the U.S. from certain Muslim-majority nations – and made derogatory remarks about immigrants from Mexico and parts of Latin America. While it is clear that he intends to continue down this path of racist nativism, it remains to be seen whether Ms. Harris will be able to offer a rational and humane border and asylum policy for undocumented workers, including a reasonable and just path to citizenship for those who are productive members of American society. There is a palpable need for bipartisan politics and policy at this juncture.

Clarity of vision

A useful drug is undone by fantastic claims about its efficacy

The casual exaggeration of claims in medicine, unsubstantiated by science and facts, has long been a plague in the health sector. The promise of spectacular cures advertised in the media from time to time, in fact, prompted separate legislation to curb such claims: the Drugs And Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act. Last week, controversy over the claims over the prowess of eye drops prescribed for presbyopia (progressive loss of the near focusing ability of the eye due to ageing), led to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) suspending a pharma company's permission to manufacture and market the product. The CDSCO said that the company had made claims, for which it had not been authorised (that using the drops could lead to reading glasses not being needed for presbyopia). "In view of public interest, and due to the likelihood of the public being misled by these claims," permission had been suspended. The company, ENTOD Pharmaceuticals, held that approval for the drug was based upon a valid controlled clinical trial that demonstrated efficacy and safety in 234 patients. It ladled the blame for the 'claims' on to media reports on the new product "which went viral and public imagination [that] led to an unusual escalation for which ENTOD Pharmaceuticals is not responsible". Despite these protestations, the company had posted a message on X (since deleted) tagging Prime Minister Narendra Modi: "PresVu is the first DCGI-approved proprietary prescription eye drops to eliminate the need for reading glasses".

The main ingredient in the drops, pilocarpine, works by causing the pupils to constrict, creating a pinhole effect. This would enable someone with presbyopia to see better. Pilocarpine, itself, is not a new application in ophthalmology, or even, presbyopia. It has been used to treat glaucoma, though its use waned because of the side effects, and has since been replaced by better drugs. The U.S. FDA had, in 2021 and 2023, approved pilocarpine-based eye drops for use in presbyopia. While the announcement of these approvals was publicised at the time, the communiqués mentioned the advantages of using the eye drops, along with the side effects, a measured claim about offering another option for presbyopes, in addition to glasses, contact lenses and surgery. The intervention of the CDSCO in this case, clearly is an attempt to reinforce the Drugs and Magic Remedies Act. This is a valid intervention in India today, where frequent advertisements for fantastic cures indicate the presence of an industry that thrives on cheating gullible patients. It is the duty of the government to set store entirely by scientific data, and rein in unsubstantiated claims about drugs, no matter who makes them.

Indian military export to Israel — aiding genocide

Prashant Bhushan

was the counsel for the petitioners in the challenge to export of arms to Israel

Cheryl Dsouza

was the counsel for the petitioners in the challenge to export of arms to Israel

A Bench of the Supreme Court of India, headed by the Chief Justice of India, recently dismissed a petition filed by former civil servants, academics, and activists. The petition, in *Ashok Kumar Sharma and Others vs Union of India*, had sought the suspension of existing licences and the withholding of further licences by the government to public sector and private companies, for exporting military equipment to Israel during the ongoing war. While the Court made it clear that it was not ruling on the merits of the case, it went on to issue a somewhat detailed judgment. The dismissal raises important questions about the limits of judicial review over executive decisions in matters of foreign policy and especially where there are grave violations of international humanitarian law.

ICJ opinion

The challenge was in view of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), in January, ordering provisional measures against Israel, for violations in the Gaza strip, of obligations under the Genocide Convention. The provisional measures included an immediate halt to all killings and destruction being perpetrated by Israel. In light of this judgment, United Nations experts warned against the transfer of weapons to Israel which may "constitute serious violation of human rights...and risk State complicity in international crimes". In July, the ICJ rendered a detailed opinion declaring that the sustained abuse by Israel renders "Israel's presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory unlawful". The ICJ observed that "all States are under an obligation not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by Israel's illegal presence".

Earlier, in an adjudication before it regarding military support by Germany to Israel (*Nicaragua vs Germany*), the ICJ had significantly stated that "the Court considers it particularly important to remind all States of their international obligations relating to the transfer of arms to parties to an armed conflict, in order to avoid the risk that such arms might be used to violate the above-mentioned Conventions". Following this there have been challenges to the export of arms to Israel in various global jurisdictions, with the Hague Court of Appeal ordering the Dutch government to halt the export of F-35 fighter jet parts to Israel given the risk that "components to be exported to Israel will be used to commit serious violations of international law".

Many countries that are parties to the Geneva and Genocide conventions have halted the supply of military equipment to Israel, in furtherance of these binding obligations. Canada, Spain and even the United Kingdom have suspended licences of companies supplying arms to Israel.

The top court's dismissal of a petition on the subject highlights the limits of judicial review over executive decisions in matters of foreign policy, especially in violations of humanitarian law

As a party to these Conventions, India has similar obligations incumbent upon it. India is obligated under the Genocide Convention to take all measures within its power to prevent genocide. Article III of the Convention makes states' complicity in genocide a punishable offence. The obligation not to supply weapons to states that are possibly guilty of war crimes is an obligation directly based on common Article 1 of the Geneva Convention. The principles in these Conventions are peremptory norms of international law. India, therefore, cannot export any military equipment or weapons to Israel, when there is a serious risk that these weapons might be used to commit war crimes.

Where the Supreme Court failed

In its judgments, the Supreme Court of India has held that India is under obligation to interpret domestic law in the light of the obligations under the conventions and treaties that India has signed and ratified. However, the Court while dismissing the present case has held, that first, international obligations are not binding, since the country (Israel) which is in violation of international law (the Genocide Convention), was not before the Court. The state of Israel not being a party before the Court in such a challenge is irrelevant, since no relief was being sought against Israel, but against the government of India and private companies exporting arms to Israel, thereby violating international law obligations. The Court further stated that the petitioner's submissions were with regard to the "conduct of an independent sovereign nation, namely Israel" and that to grant the reliefs sought, it would have to enter findings with regard to the petitioner's allegations against Israel. Again, the allegations by the petitioner were with respect to the conduct of India in sanctioning military exports, thereby abetting genocide. And the determination of the conduct of the state of Israel was premised on the ICJ, that had in a detailed order of the full court, while ordering provisional measures against Israel, noted the numerous reports by UN Special Rapporteurs and international aid organisations documenting how Gaza was a place of "death and despair".

The Court's rationale is also indefensible given its judgments that "Constitutional provisions must be read and interpreted in a manner which would enhance their conformity with the global human rights regime...and the Court must adopt an interpretation which abides by the international commitments made by the country particularly where its constitutional and statutory mandates indicate no deviation" (2017) 10 SCC 1. The ICJ has also held that states that are party to a particular convention "whether or not it is a party to a specific conflict, is under an obligation to ensure that the requirements of the instruments in question are complied with." (Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Advisory Opinion, I.C.J. Reports 2004 (I), pp. 199-200, paragraph 158). Such an obligation "does not derive only from the Conventions themselves, but from the general principles of humanitarian law to which the Conventions merely give specific expression" (*Nicaragua vs United States of America*).

Second, the Court reasons that seeking a suspension of licences with regard to contracts with international entities, including with the state of Israel, may involve a breach of contracts and other fallouts. Certainly, that is what the petitioners prayed for – a halt to all licences for the export of military arms to Israel in view of the genocide and yes, pending contracts. The Court's fear that this would lead to a breach of contract is misplaced, because any party to a contract to export of arms can always claim *force majeure* (here, due to the outbreak of a war and genocide by Israel). The same situation would arise if the Government of India were to itself suspend the licences, which it can do in such situations, as done by many other countries. Being aware of the serious risk that acts of genocide could have been committed by Israel, the government is bound to employ all means reasonably available to it to prevent genocide, which would include suspension of export licences for military aid to Israel. No contracting party can argue and let alone the court endorse as it does in this case, that licences cannot be suspended by the government (in a situation of genocide) because it affects the "financial viability" of the companies concerned.

And, third, the "self-imposed restraint on Courts entering areas of foreign policy" was raised as another bogey to dismiss the challenge. India has binding commitments under international law, especially in the context of the application of Conventions that it has signed and ratified, and once the Supreme Court has held that such international law obligations which are not contrary to municipal law, must be read into the law of our land, the Court must step in to exercise its judicial discretion and caution the executive government when it acts in violation these laws.

The fallout

In the midst of an unimaginable humanitarian crisis in Palestine and the international outcry against Israel's continuing genocide, the Supreme Court's failure to ensure that the Indian government halts its military aid to Israel and complies with its commitments under international law, will have serious repercussions in this war and its devastation that continues unabated.

Rights of future generations must guide climate debate

K. Srinath Reddy

a Distinguished Professor of Public Health, the Public Health Foundation of India and the author of 'Pulse to Planet'

The Summit Of The Future, which is to convene at the United Nations in New York on September 22-23, 2024, aims to identify multilateral pathways to address the major problems that threaten the common future of humanity. The list is long – from conflict to climate change, pandemics to pollution and outrageous income inequalities to abominable forms of discrimination. The vision guiding this multi-stakeholder consultation is a world wherein people can thrive with a greater assurance of protection from the impact of such threats on their well-being.

'Future generation rights' as main theme

The rights of future generations to live in a safe and secure world, which is not irreparably burnt or blighted by the follies of the past and present generations, is a dominant theme driving demands for climate justice. It will undoubtedly dominate the discourse at the summit – in rhetoric if not in real commitments. There is indeed a moral imperative for the present generations to ensure a liveable planet for those who will follow in the future. But is there a legal obligation?

A spirited debate erupted on this issue, in the pages of the *European Journal of International Law* in 2023. A provocative essay by Stephen Humphreys, Law School, London School of Economics, was titled 'Against Future Generations'. A rebuttal by legal scholars from Netherlands, India and the U.S. was published later. Titled 'In Defence Of Future Generations...', its lead author, Wewerinke-Singh from the University of Amsterdam, had served as Vanuatu's counsel in climate change-related proceedings in the International Court of Justice. She was part of the drafting group of the Maastricht Principles on The Human Rights of Future Generations.

Humphreys avers that the appeal to protect the rights of future generations is ambiguous rhetoric which "abjures concrete urgent existing responsibilities towards those alive today" while assuming them for "an abstract unformed future". This argument resonates with governments which believe they have an obligation to pursue even environmentally destructive paths of development to ensure high living standards for the present generation whose interests they have been elected to protect. Humphreys also argues that the 'futures' call unfairly converts those to whom responsibility is presently owed into those who owe responsibility to the future.

There is a moral imperative to ensure a liveable planet for the next generations, but another issue is that of a legal obligation

In a counter, Wawerinke-Singh and her co-authors argue that the future generations discourse "has emancipatory power, offering potential for reshaping international law based on a vision of justice and solidarity across time and space". They draw upon the traditional beliefs and encoded wisdom of indigenous groups across the world, wherein a duty towards the welfare of future generations is regarded as a sacred norm. Such obligations are invoked towards four to seven generations ahead.

Judgments on environmental matters

They also draw upon judgments from many low- and middle-income countries on environmental matters. Among those they cite is a landmark judgment in Colombia which advanced principles of intergenerational solidarity by ordering the government to 'formulate and implement an inter-generational pact for the life of the Colombian Amazon'.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan upheld a bar on the construction of cement plants in an environmentally fragile zone, eloquently declaring, "Through our pen and jurisdictional fiat, we need to decolonise our future generations from the wrath of climate change, by upholding climate justice at all times".

The National Green Tribunal of India upheld the principle of intergenerational equity in the right to environment. The High Court of Kenya decreed that the present generation is legally obliged 'to maintain and enhance the health, diversity and productivity of natural resources' to benefit future generations. The High Court of South Africa declared that inter-generational justice requires the state to 'consider the long term impact of pollution on future generations'.

The Maastricht Principles clearly enunciate the case for linking sustainable development and climate justice discourses to the rights of future generations. The Preamble of that document affirms that "neither the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, nor any other rights instrument contains a temporal limitation or limits rights to the present time". It avers that "human rights extend to all members of the human family, including both present and future generations". It declares that "human generations exist within an unbroken continuum that is continually renewed and redefined".

The Preamble further states that "human rights of future generations must be understood, interpreted, and integrated within the evolving legal context recognising humanity's relationships with the natural world, and the best available science". They emphasise that these rights must be "interpreted and applied in light of humanity's dependence on and responsibility to Earth's natural systems, now and throughout our species' future".

The document's 36 principles must guide actions at the national and global levels. One of these lists an obligation to protect the human rights of future generations "against substantial risks posed by the conduct of public and private actors, including business enterprises". Another stipulates that "future generations must be represented meaningfully and effectively in decision making that may impact on their enjoyment of human rights". As the generation which will usher in the future, young persons must have their voices heard and concerns heeded.

Pay heed to 'overshoot day'

Eight of the nine planetary boundaries needed for earth's healthy survival have already been breached. The 'planetary overshoot day', when earth's capacity to renew its depleted natural resources each year is exhausted, has moved from December 30 in 1970 to August 1 in 2024. If this continues to recede in the calendar, future generations will be left with a bankrupt planet. We need to veer away from this rush to perdition not just to save those whose lives and well-being are at immediate risk but even more so to avoid the sin of shamefully scarring the lives of future generations.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Delhi first

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's announcement that he would resign soon will alter Delhi politics. The city's residents have suffered due to long-running political tussles, deteriorating civic infrastructure and tragic incidents. A political party's electoral strategy should not gain priority over development and policymaking. It is crucial to remember that governance is the primary responsibility towards Delhi's residents.

Anshu Bharti,
Begusarai, Bihar

Mr. Kejriwal's political journey has been one of ups and downs. His decision is well reasoned. He has to prove his credentials to stay relevant. Whether Mr. Kejriwal will be able to call the shots and reoccupy the seat, only time will tell.

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

Election overhaul

The push for 'one nation, one election' may have 'advantages'. But conducting the world's largest election simultaneously in a fair manner is a mammoth task. There is also concern that regional issues might be overshadowed by national campaigns. Additionally, if a State government collapses mid-term, what happens?

Aman Aditya,
Dhenkanal, Odisha

Women-led development in the Rajya Sabha

Kusum Sudhir

Joint Secretary (Interpretation) Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Parliament of India

The phrase 'women-led development', which was recognised as one of the six focal points during India's presidency of the G20, has always been a cornerstone of the government's priorities and policies. Under a women-led development approach, women are not just beneficiaries of development, but also set the agenda for development. They are key participants in planning and decision-making.

Measures in the House

At a time when women are leading governance and development initiatives across the world, India's legislature, a pivotal organ of its democracy, cannot afford to be left behind. It is in this backdrop that the Vice President of India and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Jagdeep Dhankar, has introduced a slew of progressive measures in the proceedings of the House as well as in the Secretariat. Mr. Dhankar has always held the view that the role of women in Parliament is enormous. He has stated that women are the backbone of Parliament and the country's economic development.

When the nation witnessed the historic passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (Women's Reservation Bill), 2023, Mr. Dhankar, in a historic move, reconstituted the panel of vice-chairpersons to include only women. He emphasised that this would "send a powerful message to the world at large and it would symbolise that they held a 'commanding position' during this epochal moment of change".

Mr. Dhankar also began the practice of nominating four women members, who constitute 50% of the panel of vice-chairpersons. As a result, S. Phangnon Konyak became the first woman Rajya Sabha member from Nagaland to preside over the House. Eminent athlete P.T. Usha also created history by becoming the first nominated MP in history to become the Vice Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.

Under India's presidency, the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration underscored that investing in the empowerment of all women and girls has a multiplier effect in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. India is already working tirelessly towards goal 5.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which calls for "women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life." The Rajya Sabha Secretariat is expected to set the highest standards in this direction.

Initiatives in the Secretariat

With the aim of striking a gender balance at the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Mr. Dhankar has started many new initiatives. For example, the sections related to House duty were conventionally considered a male domain because they involved late sittings. The Chairman felt the need to break such stereotypes and so, all the gazetted women officers of the Secretariat were trained to perform House-related duties. Today, the Table of the House is largely being 'womanned' by female officers. Accordingly, a duty roster is prepared and women officers are deputed on chamber duty. Moreover, an application-based system called 'Vahan' was introduced to address the problem of commutation during late sitting hours. Through this app, women officers can avail themselves of commutation facilities during odd hours. In addition, through a process of selection, some women officials of the Secretariat have been appointed as chamber attendants. This has created a favourable atmosphere even inside the House for women MPs.

During various interactions with the officers of the Secretariat, Mr. Dhankar has unequivocally stated that women-led development is going to be the future road map of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. The process has already begun. Women officers have been appointed in key positions and leading roles in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. Today, responsibilities such as human resources, the legislative section, and the capacity-building division have been entrusted to women officers of the Secretariat. Besides, high skill-based work such as officiating in Parliamentary Standing Committees of the Rajya Sabha is being done by women at various levels. Even some senior positions in security service are being occupied by women officers. Top performing women officers are being recognised and rewarded all across the services. A woman officer of the Secretariat has been appointed as master trainer for iGOT-Karmayogi Bharat. The noteworthy aspect about introducing women-centric measures in the Secretariat is the spirit of congeniality. Gender sensitisation workshops and talks have been organised to create a healthy culture of gender parity.

The Chairman, from time to time, has also impressed upon the need of synergising work with creativity and recreation. The celebration of women's day in the Secretariat is a case in point. Women's day programmes are conceptualised, organised and executed by women officers or employees. These events give them many opportunities to showcase their talents.

In a vibrant democracy, it is healthy to have regular interactions between the legislature and academia. The buck should not just stop at the Secretariat. Therefore, Mr. Dhankar offered to invite five interns from Miranda House in Delhi for a 15-day course on parliamentary procedures.

The Rajya Sabha under Mr. Dhankar's chairmanship is leading by example in translating the ideal of women-led development into a reality. This may pave the way for other legislatures in India to follow suit.

The Rajya Sabha under Jagdeep Dhankar's chairmanship is leading by example in translating the ideal of women-led development into a reality

Politics over prayer

Assam's decision to abolish the Jumma break seems to have no rationale

STATE OF PLAY

Sanjay Kumar

The Assam Legislative Assembly recently decided to discontinue the British-era practice of providing a two-hour break for *Jumma* prayers on Fridays. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sharma said the decision was made unanimously by both Hindu and Muslim MLAs.

The practice has been prevalent in the Assembly since 1937, when it was introduced by the Muslim League's Syed Saadulla. The sudden move to abolish it has predictably led to heated debates. What is the rationale for this move? Has the proportion of Muslim MLAs in the Assam Assembly reduced, which led to a re-examination of this practice? Or do fewer Muslims offer *namaaz* on Fridays? Let us examine these two questions.

Two questions

In the current Assembly, of a total of 126 MLAs, 31 are Muslim. The numbers have not changed significantly over the years. The 2016 and 2011 Assemblies had 28 Muslims MLAs each, while the 2006 Assembly had 25 Muslim MLAs, who mostly belonged to the Congress and the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF). All the Muslim MLAs in the last four Assemblies belonged to parties apart from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). There was only one exception: Aminul Haque Laskar, who got elected on a BJP ticket from the Bengali-dominated Sonai Assembly constituency. He too later switched to the Congress. Thus, the change in rules will hurt the Muslim MLAs, who all belong to non-BJP parties.

Surveys conducted by Lokniti indicate that there has hardly been any decline in the levels of religiosity among Indian Muslims. The practice of offering *namaaz* every day is widely prevalent. According to the survey, in 2014, 59% of Muslims said that they offered *namaaz* daily, while another 27% said that they did so weekly. Another 10% said that they offered *namaaz* only during festivals. This means that 86% of Muslims offer *namaaz* on a regular basis.

A survey conducted in 2024 showed that the proportion of Muslims offering *namaaz* every day increased to 63%. Another 22% said they offer *namaaz* on Fridays and yet another 7% said that they do so only during festivals. The share of Muslims who offer *namaaz* daily has increased in the last 10 years. Thus, these surveys show that there has been no significant change in the levels of religiosity among Indian Muslims. That is, there is hardly any change in the frequency of offering *namaaz*.

Therefore, neither of these two possible explanations seems to hold ground. So, why was this long-standing practice been changed? The Chief Minister said that the move "prioritises productivity" and sheds India's "colonial baggage". He argued that it was taken in view of the "secular nature of the Constitution".

Criticisms

However, not everyone agrees. Some see political motives for this move. The AIUDF criticised the decision, claiming that it was aimed at targeting Muslims ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections. The party alleged that this was yet another move by the BJP-led government to target Muslims for political benefits. Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav also condemned the move, alleging that it had been taken to gain "cheap publicity". He said that the BJP wanted to "bother Muslims in some way or the other".

The decision was opposed not only by Opposition parties but also by the National Democratic Alliance's own allies – the Janata Dal (United) and the Lok Jan Shakti Party (LJP). JD(U) leader Neeraj Kumar accused the Chief Minister of undermining religious practices and questioned his priorities, suggesting that the government should focus on issues such as poverty alleviation and flood prevention. Mr. Kumar also raised questions about the constitutional protection of religious beliefs, asking whether similar bans would be imposed on Hindu traditions, such as animal sacrifices at the Maa Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati. Similarly, K.C. Tyagi, a JD(U) functionary who has since resigned, emphasised the need to uphold the Constitution's protection of liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith, and worship. In response to these reactions, Mr. Sarma expressed surprise.

Given the criticism, will the government reconsider its decision? This is not impossible, especially since we have seen the Central government take many decisions only to withdraw them following a backlash in recent times.

Sanjay Kumar is Professor and Co-director, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi

Changing rural equations in Haryana's battleground

While the BJP largely retained its urban strengths in the Lok Sabha polls , it is playing catch-up in rural areas

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP lost a significant share of its rural voter base, with much of it shifting to the Congress.

In Monday's Data Point, we had highlighted the wind behind the Congress's electoral prospects in the Haryana Assembly elections. The Grand Old Party has gained a fillip thanks to a significant increase in its vote share in the rural and semi-rural areas of the State in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. With the regional parties losing their support base in the Lok Sabha polls and the contest becoming largely bipolar, a fall in the BJP's rural vote share benefited the Congress.

The BJP has also lost a chunk of votes in urban areas compared to the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, which again benefited the Congress, but nevertheless secured more than 50% of the votes in cities in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. **Map 1** provides a geospatial representation of Haryana, divided into rural, semi-rural, semi-urban, and urban areas.

The Assembly seats abutting Delhi, such as Gurugram, Badshahpur, Badkhal, Faridabad, and Ballabgarh, are urban in nature, while those in the eastern border, along Uttar Pradesh, are classified as semi-urban or semi-rural. Seats in the western border along Punjab and Rajasthan are rural. In general, the State becomes increasingly rural as we move away from Delhi and the eastern border.

Notably, in the areas adjoining the relatively more urban eastern border and the rapidly urbanising places around Delhi, the voting population has surged, largely due to migration. **Map 2** shows the percentage change in electors in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections compared to the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

The number of electors in the Assembly segments of Tigaon, Sohna, Gurugram, Faridabad NIT, Badshahpur, and Badkhal, in the Faridabad and Gurugram districts, have increased by over 50% in the period.

Table 3 shows that the BJP secured over 40% of the vote share in semi-urban areas and close to 50% of votes in urban seats in the recent Assembly elections (2014 and 2019). Its vote share in such areas increased even further if the recent Lok Sabha elections are considered. The Congress, on the other hand, performed poorly, securing about 15%-25% in the recent polls (Lok Sabha and Assembly elections). However, the party managed to increase its vote share to 35% in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls by making a small dent in the BJP's support base in urban areas.

In rural areas, the preference for regional parties such as the Indian National Lok Dal was more pronounced in the 2014 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, with over half the voters choosing neither the BJP nor the Congress. The BJP managed to reverse this trend in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections by securing over 50% of the rural and semi-rural votes, and the Congress gained marginally too. But in the subsequent Assembly elections in 2019, the Jannayak Janta Party's foray helped it secure a sizeable vote share, even if the total share of the regional parties was lower compared to the 2014 Assembly elections.

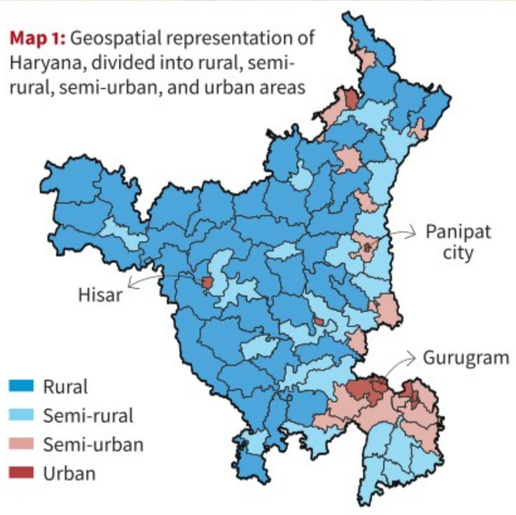
With the Congress gaining significantly in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls and the share of the regional parties shrinking further, the BJP has tried to stem its losses and regain support by lifting the export curbs on basmati rice. This move will benefit farmers in the State. Haryana and Punjab are the top two States in terms of production.

Map 4 shows the production of basmati rice in thousand tonnes for 2023. If this move does have an impact, it will be most pronounced in the Assembly seats in the Jind and Sirsa districts followed by Karnal and Sonipat.

Rural-urban voting patterns

Data for the maps and tables were sourced from the Election Commission of India, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, and the Development Data Lab. The urban-rural classification was done by aggregating night light intensity data on Assembly constituencies, provided by the SHRUG database

Map 1: Geospatial representation of Haryana, divided into rural, semi-rural, semi-urban, and urban areas



Map 2: Percentage change in electors in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections compared to the 2014 Lok Sabha polls

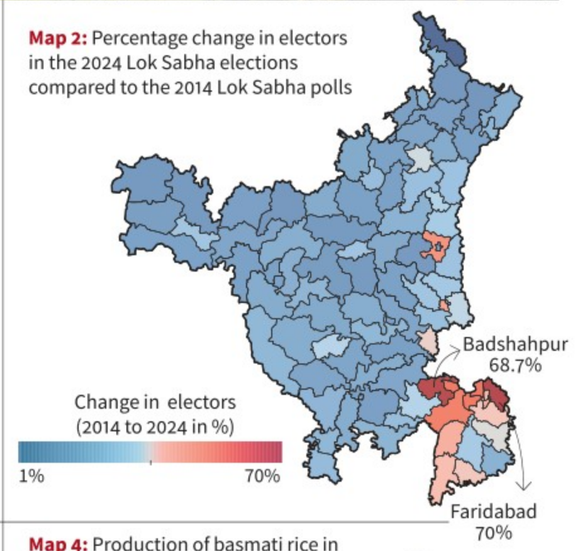


Table 3: Vote share secured by the BJP and the Congress across rural and urban areas. Figures in %

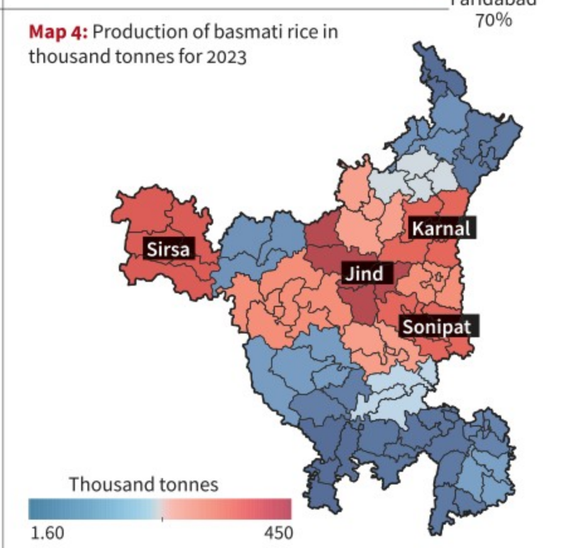
Congress

Polls	Rural	Semi-rural	Semi-urban	Urban
2014 GE	25.2	25.3	17.5	16.8
2014 AE	19.4	24.1	17.9	21.5
2019 GE	28.3	34.5	24.7	21.4
2019 AE	25.6	32.4	28.8	23.1
2024 GE	43.4	49.3	39.0	33.5

BJP

Polls	Rural	Semi-rural	Semi-urban	Urban
2014 GE	22.8	32.6	54.8	55.8
2014 AE	28.7	27.7	41.5	52.2
2019 GE	53.2	54.0	66.4	71.8
2019 AE	31.7	37.1	40.9	48.6
2024 GE	39.4	41.9	54.9	63.2

Map 4: Production of basmati rice in thousand tonnes for 2023



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 17, 1974

Train alarm chain pulling on increase

Madras, Sept. 16: The Southern Railway authorities are concerned over the growing menace of alarm chain pulling which has upset the punctuality of trains in the broad gauge sections of the Madras Division.

There has been a significant rise in the number of such incidents in recent months. From 501 in July, the figure rose to 579 in August. It is unlikely to go up still further in September, the tally for the first ten days being 233.

A study of the figures shows the Gudur-Madras section accounted for the largest number – 153 out of 233 reported till September 10 – and the incidents occurred mostly between Tiruvottiyur and Ennore stations.

Railway sources attribute the spurt in the number of chain pullings to increased smuggling of rice from Andhra centres in the context of rice scarcity and high prices in Madras. The smugglers, it is said, pulled the alarm chain to unload the stocks midway between stations. The re-imposition of Prohibition in Tamil Nadu from September 1 has given rise to smuggling of liquor also from Andhra Pradesh in recent weeks, according to a Railway spokesman.

Yet another matter agitating the Railways is the cases of assault on train crew reported from this section. The driver of a Madras-Gummidipundi local sustained head injuries yesterday, as a result of stone-throwing by a group of persons standing beside the track between Tiruvottiyur and Ennore.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 17, 1924

The world's shorthand championship

A correspondent writes: Information has been received from Washington that in the annual Shorthand speed competition held on Aug. 18th by the National Shorthand Reporters' association, the championship was won by Mr. Charles L. Swem, a writer of Gregg Shorthand and formerly official reporter to the late President Woodrow Wilson. Mr. Nathan Behrin, the greatest writer of Pitman Shorthand the world has yet produced, secured the second place. The third place was won by Mr. M.J. Dupraw, a young Gregg writer, eighteen years of age.

From Page One

Mamata drops officials, asks doctors to join duty

The meeting also comes ahead of the Supreme Court's likely hearing on Tuesday of the R.G. Kar rape and murder case. The apex court, in an earlier hearing on September 9, had urged the protesting doctors to resume duties.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Pant invited junior doctors for the meeting, saying it was "the fifth and the final time we are reaching out to you for a meeting between the Chief Minister and the delegates".

The doctors, under the banner of West Bengal Junior Doctor's Forum, held a meeting and decided to join the discussions.

The protesting junior doctors had been insisting on five-point demands, which include the removal of Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal and senior officials of the State Health department as well as increased security and safety for doctors, and ending the 'threat culture' in the State-run hospitals.

Since September 10, the doctors have shifted the protests from R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital to Swasthya Bhavan.

Kejriwal to resign, AAP to pick new CM today

Monday's development followed Mr. Kejriwal announcing on Sunday his plan to resign as Chief Minister, less than 48 hours after the Supreme Court granted him bail in the Delhi liquor policy case. He also called for an early Assembly election to "allow the people of Delhi to decide if the AAP government is an honest government".

"I will not sit on CM's chair until the people of Delhi give their verdict. I will resign after two days," he had said. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Sisodia announced that he too would go to the "people's court". "Along with Arvind Kejriwal, I will also go to the people's court. If the people approve my honesty in election, only then will I sit on the chair," he had declared.

Despite opposition from the BJP and the Congress's Delhi unit, the AAP had insisted on Mr. Kejriwal continuing his tenure even while incarcerated for six months. Sources said the conditions on which his bail has been set make it difficult for the Chief Minister to continue in his post, resulting in his impending resignation.

Campaign ends for first phase of polls in J&K

In 2014, the PDP had won 11 seats from south Kashmir. A total of 23.27 lakh voters, including 5.66 lakh youth, will decide the fate of leaders such as Iltija Mufti, 37, daughter of PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, who is contesting from Srigufwara-Bijbehara.

"Bijbehara is not just a home to the Muftis but is our bastion. It will always remain so. I pledge to serve people not as a politician but as a daughter and a sister," Ms. Iltija said. She is pitted against Bashir Ahmad Veeri of the NC, who too has campaigned with vigour attracting sizeable crowds in his rallies.

The PDP's Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, who spent 19 months in jail on charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, is contesting from the Pulwama constituency. He is up against 11 candidates, including the NC's Mohammad Khalil Bandh, a former PDP leader.

Talat Majid Alie, who holds a Ph.D. in agriculture, is backed by the JeI. It is for the first time that the banned outfit is supporting Independent candidates in an election. The CPI(M)'s M.Y. Tarigami is up against JeI-backed candidate Sayar Ahmad Reshi in Kulgam, which is set to see a neck-to-neck fight.

For the first time, the BJP has fielded seven candidates in south Kashmir. The party is contesting from Rajpora, Shopian, Kokernag, Anantnag-43, Anantnag-44, Srigufwara-Bijbehara and Shangus-Anantnag seats. In the Chenab valley, with more Muslim voters than Hindus, the BJP is contesting all eight seats.

After talks, Dalits get entry to temple in T.N.

"The villagers had surrounded the temple on that day as soon as the *yagasala* pujas were completed. Complaints have been preferred by both the communities against each other and a First Information Report [FIR] against the dominant community was registered for discrimination," an official added.

The temple was sealed twice earlier too due to differences between the two communities. A resident, who did not want to be named, said the temple would hopefully not be sealed again and people of all communities would continue to enjoy being able to worship inside the temple.

Tiruvallur district Assistant Commissioner (holding additional charge) of the HR&CE portfolio K. Chitra Devi said staff members had been posted at the temple to ensure that there was no discrimination and everyone was allowed inside the temple. A police posse has been stationed at the temple to ensure peace and the situation would continue to be monitored by the local police officials, she added.

Films to be accessible to persons with disabilities

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The 'Accessibility Standards' module in E-Cinepramaan website has been successfully deployed, enabling applicants to submit their films with the required accessibility features for persons with hearing and visual disabilities, as specified in the guidelines.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had set September 15 as the effective date for implementation of these guidelines.

"...Through an Office Memorandum dated March 15, 2024, the Ministry had issued new guidelines aimed at enhancing accessibility standards for the public exhibition of feature films in cinema theatres for persons with hearing and visual impairment," the Ministry stated.

These guidelines apply to those feature films certified by the Central Board of Film Certification for public exhibition in cinema halls/movie theatres for commercial purposes. All films that are to be certified in more than one language should have at least one accessibility feature each for persons with hearing or visual disabilities.

'Renewable energy sector will power India's growth'

At investors' meet in Gujarat, PM Modi outlines major announcements of his govt. in first 100 days of third term; says that India is first G-20 country to reach the Paris climate goals ahead of time

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday inaugurated the fourth Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST) in his home State of Gujarat, and said that India was at the forefront of harnessing renewable energy sources, including solar power, to fight climate change.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Modi said 140 crore Indians had pledged to make the country the world's third largest economy, and the renewable energy sector would power the country's rapid economic growth in the years to come.

PM Narendra Modi addressing the fourth Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet & Expo in Gandhinagar on Monday. VIJAY SONEJI

Sustaining at the top

"India aims to not only reach the top but to sustain at the position," Mr. Modi said, adding that the world believes India is the best bet of the 21st century.

"India is preparing a base not only for today but for the next thousand years," he said, adding that in the first 100 days of his third term, the government had taken multiple decisions to expand physical and social infrastructure.

Mr. Modi outlined some of the major announcements of his government this time, including the decisions to create 12 new industrial cities and eight high-speed road corridor projects; the launch of over 15 semi-high speed Vande Bharat trains; promoting research with the inception of a fund worth ₹1 trillion; various initiatives to drive e-mobility; high-performance biomanufacturing and the Bio-E3 policy. The creation of a viability gap funding scheme for offshore wind energy projects worth more than ₹7,000 crore was a big move to promote off-shore wind farms in the coastal States, he said.

India has been well aware of its energy requirements to make it a developed nation by 2047, and had decided to build its future on the basis of renewable energy sources, including solar power, wind power, nuclear power and hydro power, he said, because conventional energy supply sources were depleting and were also highly polluting.

"India is the first G-20 nation to achieve the climate commitments set in Paris – nine years before the deadline," Mr. Modi said in his inaugural address at the event, in the presence of several Chief Ministers and other functionaries, and delegates from around 40 countries.

Lauding State governments for developing solar and wind energy infrastructure, he emphasised the government's target of achieving 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030, and said the government had "turned the green transition into a people's movement".

During his speech, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader also recalled his re-election as Prime Minister for a third term, and added that the country's aspirations were the reason for it.

Mr. Modi also stressed that the poor, Dalits, and the deprived believed that the government's third term would become a guarantee for a dignified life for the marginalised sections of society.

India 'strongly deplores' comment by Iran leader

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India on Monday "strongly" deplored Iran supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's comment on the condition of the Muslim community in India. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs described the remark as "unacceptable". Mr. Khamenei had on Monday included India alongside Gaza and Myanmar as one of the places where Muslims were suffering.

"We strongly deplore the comments made regarding minorities in India by the Supreme Leader of Iran. These are misinformed and unacceptable. Countries commenting on minorities are advised to look at their own record before making any observations about others," the Ministry said.

"We cannot consider ourselves to be Muslims if we are oblivious to the suffering that a Muslim is enduring in Myanmar, Gaza, India, or any other place," Mr. Khamenei had said in a message posted on social media that was also translated to Bengali.

"The concept of an 'Islamic Ummah' must never be forgotten," he said.

Harassment video derailed a serious bid for peace in Manipur: former Assam Rifles chief

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant-General Pradeep Chandran Nair (retd), former Director-General of the Assam Rifles, said the only serious attempt by the security forces for a dialogue between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities in Manipur last year was derailed when a video of two Kuki-Zo women being stripped and paraded by a mob surfaced on social media in July.

In an interview with *The Hindu*, Lieutenant-General Nair said though the violence erupted around 2.30 p.m. on May 3, 2023, the State government requisitioned the deployment of Assam Rifles at 8.30 p.m. as the administration was trying to assess if it could handle the violence on its own.

The Assam Rifles is deployed for counter-insurgency operations in the Northeast and is the primary border-guarding force along Myanmar.

Lieutenant-General Nair said there were inputs about tensions between the two communities since March 27, 2023 following a Manipur High Court order.

The court directed the State government to submit a recommendation for inclusion of Meiteis in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) list and to consider the proposal preferably within four weeks. He said the Assam Rifles and the Army had kept troops on standby even before May 3, when violence broke out simultaneously at "three or four places" after a tribal solidarity march to protest against the court order.

"We get criticised that it is a total intelligence failure, but we were quite aware. From the time the court directives were passed, the rumblings could be heard, the undercurrents were there," said Lieutenant-General Nair, who headed the force from June 1, 2021 to July 31 this year.

He added that without receiving any directions, the Assam Rifles and the Army decided that there was a necessity to keep some columns ready. "We assumed that 15 to 20 columns would be enough at Churachandpur and Imphal, from the time of the court decision. After the State requested deployment on May 3, our columns were out on the ground within 30 minutes. If we we were not ready, then the killings would have been much higher, at least 2,000 to 3,000 people would have been killed in the first few days. The Inspector-General, Assam Rifles, was at the Chief Minister's Office at 3.30 p.m., yet we waited for requisition which came at 8.30 p.m.," he added. In the first one week, around 65 people were killed in the violence and in the past 16 months, at least 237 people had been killed and more than 60,000 people displaced.

> If we were not ready, then the killings would have been much higher, at least 2,000 to 3,000 people would have been killed in the first few days.
>
> **LIEUTENANT-GENERAL PRADEEP CHANDRAN NAIR**
> Former D-G of Assam Rifles

He said one of the ways to solve the current crisis is through backchannel discussions among the two communities, adding that the Assam Rifles and the Indian Army initiated a dialogue between the two communities in June 2023 after Home Minister Amit Shah's visit from May 31-June 3. "We got in touch with some of the people, including from Meira Paibi and important civil society organisations. There was a lot of reluctance. Finally, they agreed to meet, sometime in the first week of July. We wanted to meet at a neutral place and it was agreed that it will be in Guwahati. But unfortunately, a week or 10 days later, the video of women being stripped and paraded went viral... and then it took a totally different turn, the rest as they say is history... Because feelings got caustic after that, both the communities were not willing to meet thereafter. This was one of the sincere attempts we made, I am not sure of any other attempt made by any other organisation. We got the Army on board," he said, adding that involving the political leadership was the next step.

Asked if the crisis was a security or a political issue, he said: "Security forces can only try and arrest violence which they have done to a large extent... We saved nothing less than 2,000-3,000 lives between May 3-5."

Manipur Internet ban lifted, partial curfew on

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Manipur government withdrew the week-long suspension of mobile Internet services in five Imphal Valley districts on Monday, and ordered the reopening of schools and colleges from Tuesday.

The ban was imposed in the Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, Bishnupur, and Kakching districts of the State on September 10.

Yet, curfew in four districts – Imphal East, Imphal West, Thoubal, and Bishnupur – continued with some relaxations.

"...the Governor of Manipur is pleased to order revocation of any extant orders for temporary suspension of internet and mobile data services including Lease Lines, VSATs, Broadband and VPN services in the territorial jurisdiction of the state with immediate effect," the State Home Department's order said.

Modi has proven to be a weak PM in third term: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

PM's ties with RSS have soured, and the government lacks direction, says party

Asserting that the first 100 days of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has been marked by "U-turns", the Congress on Monday said that Mr. Modi in his third term has proven to be a "weak" Prime Minister.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinate, who heads the party's social media department, said the government's first 100 days have been marked by "instability, indecisiveness and immaturity". She said this period has weighed heavily on the nation's farmers, youth, women, infrastructure, Railways, and overall peace.

Ms. Shrinate said that the Prime Minister's relationship with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has soured, there is intense infighting within the BJP, and the government lacked direction.

"Do you remember the tall claims made during the election campaign that Narendra Modi was planning for the first 100 days? Where is that plan now? Because from day one, Modi has proven to be a weak Prime Minister, dependent on crutches, setting new records for U-turns," she said.

Ms. Shrinate referred to the shelving of the plan to hire bureaucrats through the lateral entry route, putting the broadcast Bill on the backburner, sending the Waqf Board Bill to a Joint Parliamentary Committee, going back on the proposal to hike long term capital gains and indexation and announcing the Unified Pension Scheme in place of the National Pension System as examples of U-turns.

Raising a query about the Prime Minister's plan or vision for the next five years, Ms. Shrinate asked, "Do you have a plan to improve relations with our neighbouring countries?

Don't demoralise EC, probe agencies, cautions Dhankhar

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Sunday cautioned the judiciary, the executive, and the legislature against "triggering points of political inflammatory debates or narrative that is detrimental to the established institutions".

Speaking at an event in Mumbai, he said these institutions had served the nation well in challenging and daunting environment.

The comments came against the backdrop of observations made by the Supreme Court about the Central Bureau of Investigation in the Arvind Kejriwal case. The top court said the CBI must be above board and dispel the notion of being a caged parrot.

Robust institutions

"Our institutions – all kinds of institutions, Election Commission, investigative agencies – they perform duty under trying situations. An observation can de-spirit them. It can set a political debate afloat. It can trigger a narrative. We have to be extremely cautious about all our institutions," he said.

"They [the institutions] are robust. They are working independently. There are checks and balances. They work under the rule of law. In that situation, it might work in a manner to generate some sensation, to become focal point of a political debate or a narrative. That I will appeal to the concerned, is wholly avoidable."

He said all institutions and organs of the state worked with the underlying goal of making the Constitution successful.

"All organs of state – judiciary, legislature, executive – have only one goal. That the intention underlying the Constitution should be successful. The common man should get all the rights. India should flourish. They need to work in tandem and togetherness to nurture and blossom democratic values and further constitutional ideals," Mr. Dhankhar said.

Terrorism, Article 370 will not make a comeback in J&K: Shah

Referring to NC, PDP manifestos, he says there will be no talks with Pakistan till terrorism ends; at poll rally, the leader also highlights fresh measures taken in Jammu region to tackle militancy and reiterates BJP's position on new reservation policy

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Hardening the Bharatiya Janata Party's position on separatism and the issue of restoration of Article 370, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said there would be no talks with Pakistan till terrorism ended and stone-throwers would face jail.

Referring to the manifestos of the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) seeking talks with Pakistan and release of youth from prison, Mr. Shah said, "No talks will be held with Pakistan till terrorism is over. Let Omar Abdullah [of the NC] do his best, no trade will be held with Pakistan. Jails are ready for stone-throwers."

At an election meeting in the Paddar-Nagseni Assembly constituency in the Kishtwar area, the Home Minister minced no words on the government's iron-handed approach towards terrorism and separatism. "No power can revive terrorism in the Jammu region like the 1990s. The BJP government will bury terrorism deep down so that it will never erupt again. Nobody will be allowed to use Indian soil for terrorism," Mr. Shah said.

Hitting the ground: Union Home Minister Amit Shah greeting people at a public rally at Paddar-Nagseni in Kishtwar on Monday. Union Minister Jitendra Singh and others are present. ANI

He accused the NC and the Congress of "setting up a base for terrorism and separatism in Jammu and Kashmir". "Maharaja Hari Singh was pushed away from Jammu and Kashmir by these parties. Only his mortal remains returned to Jammu and Kashmir. These parties are responsible for the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in the 1990s," the Home Minister said.

Pointing out Mr. Abdullah's recent statement on the hanging of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru, Mr. Shah said, "Mr. Abdullah said he [Guru] should not have been hanged. This tells us what will happen if Rahul Gandhi and Omar Abdullah form the government. Bullets will be fired again, stone throwing will happen again, funeral processions of terrorists will take place again, Tazia processions will be stopped again, cinema halls will be shut again, Amarnath Yatra will be attacked again and the investment that is coming to Jammu and Kashmir will be replaced by unemployment."

'Old chapter'

On the regional parties' high-pitch campaign on restoration of Article 370, Mr. Shah said, "There is no place for Article 370 in the Indian Constitution. This Article has become an old chapter of India's history. I ask the NC-Congress how can they bring back Article 370? Neither terrorism nor Article 370 will return," he said. "There is no question of bringing back two constitutions, two flags," he added.

He also referred to fresh measures taken in the Jammu region to tackle militancy and cross-border infiltration. He highlighted the measures to upscale weapons of Village Defence Guards (VDGs) and Special Police Officers (SPOs).

"Fresh measures were introduced to ensure infiltrators who come here to disrupt peace are buried in the mountains only and not allowed to enter the hinterland," Mr. Shah said.

He also reiterated the BJP's position on the new reservation policy in J&K, which included new groups in Schedule Tribes and Scheduled Castes. "The Modi government at the Centre will never allow reversal of the reservation given to Gujjars and Paharis," he said.

BJP candidate withdraws nomination from Sirsa, party to back HLP leader

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

The Bharatiya Janata Party's Sirsa candidate, Rohtash Jangra, on Monday withdrew his nomination papers in support of Gopal Kanda of the Haryana Lokhit Party (HLP).

Later, Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) secretary-general Abhay Chautala said that he would reconsider his alliance with the HLP.

Mr. Kanda, who supported the BJP during the 2024 Lok Sabha election, had joined the INLD-Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) alliance a day after the BJP released its final list of candidates which did not feature his name.

BJP senior leader Ashok Tanwar, at a press conference, announced that the party's candidate from Sirsa had withdrawn his papers and extended support to Mr. Kanda. Mr. Tanwar said that the party supported Mr. Kanda as he had supported the BJP during the Lok Sabha election.

On why the party earlier ruled out an alliance with the HLP, Mr. Tanwar said that "it was the decision of the high command".

Major U-turn: Haryana Lokhit Party's Gopal Kanda had supported the BJP in the Lok Sabha election. FILE PHOTO

Despite Chief Minister Nayab Saini hinting last month that the BJP would tie up with the HLP, the saffron party in its final list fielded Mr. Jangra from Sirsa. A day later, Mr. Kanda joined the INLD-BSP alliance.

Mr. Chautala, at a press conference, said he would speak to Mr. Kanda about this and reconsider his decision to ally with him.

Need not be an MLA to become CM: Surjewala

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

Congress leader Randeep Surjewala said that it was not mandatory to be an MLA to become the Chief Minister. His remarks assume significance against the backdrop of Sirsa MP Kumari Sejla, one of the top contenders for the CM post, not contesting the Haryana election. Mr. Surjewala told a news channel that the party had made an MP the Chief Minister in 2005.

He said MLAs and the high command would decide on the next Chief Minister at the right time.

Haryana has worst employment figures, says Chidambaram

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Senior Congress leader and former Union Minister P. Chidambaram on Monday hit out at the Bharatiya Janata Party government in Haryana, terming its tenure a "total failure" that has rendered the State's economic indicators among the worst in the country.

The election to Haryana's 90-member Assembly is scheduled for October 5.

"Due to the callous attitude of this government, farmers had to resort to agitations and come on the roads. The BJP regime has been a complete failure," Mr. Chidambaram said at a press conference here.

The leader said the BJP government had unleashed repression and violence against farmers. "More than 250 first information reports were registered against farmers, some of these for crimes they never committed," he said.

"Haryana has the worst unemployment figures in the country. As per Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data, its unemployment rate is 37.4%. Even the government's own labour survey report has given the figures of Haryana's unemployment as 9% as against the national average of 4.1%. This proves that unemployment in Haryana is more than double of the national average. Haryana had 4.5 lakh regular government posts out of which 1.8 lakh are vacant," he said.

Opposition parties criticise BJP's 'one nation, one election' proposal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after government sources said "one nation, one election" will be implemented in the current term of the National Democratic Alliance government, Opposition parties on Monday reiterated their opposition to the plan.

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, who is a constitutional expert, said one nation, one election, or simultaneous polls, is not possible under the Constitution as it will require, at least, five constitutional amendments.

"Mr. Modi does not have the majority to put those constitutional amendments in either in the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha," Mr. Chidambaram told press-persons in Chandigarh.

> The Union govt. cannot snatch all powers from the State governments... this issue was discussed in the Constituent Assembly and things are very clear
>
> **D. RAJA**
> CPI general secretary

Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien said a government that was pushing for simultaneous Assembly and general elections was unable to hold even Assembly elections together.

"One nation, one election is just another gimmick from the anti-democratic BJP. Why was the Maharashtra election not announced along with elections in Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir? Here's why. The Maharashtra government announced the Ladki Bahin scheme in its Budget this June. The first tranche reached the bank accounts of women in August. The second tranche is likely to reach beneficiaries in mid-October. You can't do three States in one go," he said.

Communist Party of India (CPI) general secretary D. Raja said that his party does not support the proposal. "Our party, the CPI, is not in favour of 'one nation one election'. In fact, I met the former president who was heading the committee," he said.

Mr. Raja said India is a diverse country and elections are held to Parliament and the Legislative Assemblies. The Constitution makes clear the tenure of Lok Sabha, State Assembly, the powers of elected Chief Ministers and governments in the States, he said.

The Centre cannot snatch all powers from the State governments, he said, adding this issue was discussed in the Constituent Assembly and things are very clear. He said the Election Commission is a permanent commission which draws all its powers from the Constitution.

(With PTI inputs)

Simultaneous polls will ensure continuity of policies, says JD(U)

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Janata Dal(U), a key ally of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, on Monday offered wholehearted support for the latter's push for simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and Assemblies, referred to as "one nation, one election".

Extolling its benefits, party national spokesperson Rajiv Ranjan Prasad said that it will ensure "continuity of policies".

The plan to merge the schedules for State and Lok Sabha elections has been on the BJP government's agenda since 2014.

A committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind constituted during the last term of the Narendra Modi government had recommended holding simultaneous elections followed by local body elections within 100 days. Mr. Modi reiterated his government's commitment on the issue during his Independence Day address.

'Will ensure continuity'

In a statement, Mr. Prasad said, "We believe that this will ensure continuity of policies in the country. Frequent elections hamper the pace of development plans and also cause other problems. We will get relief from these."

He said it would increase voter turnout and reduce expenditure. The money thus saved can be used for development purposes.

After hectic negotiations, BJP concedes chair of four House panels to Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

According to sources, the BJP is likely to lead parliamentary committees on Finance and Defence

After prolonged negotiations, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has conceded the chair of Department-related Standing Committees on External Affairs, Agriculture, Rural Development and Education to the Congress. A notification is expected shortly.

In 2014, with the Congress tally at just 44 MPs, the party held the chair of parliamentary committees on External Affairs and Finance.

The Congress had begun negotiations demanding External Affairs, Finance, Defence and Home Affairs.

The government had refused to hand over even one of these four panels. It argued that since the Congress as the principal Opposition party heads the Public Accounts Committee, which audits all government expenditure, it need not be given finance.

According to sources, the BJP is likely to lead the panels on Finance and Defence. It is also likely to accommodate its two key allies, Telugu Desam Party and Janata Dal(U), though based on its numerical strength the TDP is not eligible to head the panel.

Other parties

Sources also said that the Samajwadi Party will be heading the Standing Committee on Health.

Samajwadi Party MP Ram Gopal Yadav chaired the panel during the previous Lok Sabha. The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Trinamool Congress will head one panel each.

There are 24 Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees. Out of these, 16 committees come within the ambit of the Lok Sabha and are chaired by a Lok Sabha member and the rest are under the Rajya Sabha.

The committees provide an additional layer of scrutiny and accountability for the government, since these are non-partisan platforms where the members are not bound by the party's whip.

With just four seats, the Congress has another tricky problem on its hands. In picking the chair of these four panels, it will have to balance the caste and regional factors.

As Kejriwal makes a risky gambit, records show placeholders usually warm to the chair

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Two days after he came out of jail on bail in the Delhi excise policy case, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday declared that he would quit the top post, after having resolutely refused to do so while behind bars.

Political observers believe the gambit is aimed at regaining traction ahead of the Assembly election in Delhi early next year, while someone else takes over the hassle of governance. Mr. Kejriwal is not the first Chief Minister to propose this route to political and electoral redemption, but the experience of others who opted for it has been mixed, and comes with cautionary tales.

In 2014, after he walked out of the National Democratic Alliance, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar faced electoral decimation in the Lok Sabha election and was quick to quit the post and appoint current Union Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi in his stead.

The idea was to do what Mr. Kejriwal is proposing – to hit the streets before the Assembly election, re-strategise, and leave governance to a declared loyalist. But things did not work out the way Mr. Kumar would have preferred, with Mr. Manjhi getting comfortable in the CM's chair, and soon believing that he had secured the position on his own rather than as Mr. Kumar's replacement.

In that situation, Mr. Kumar, retaining the loyalty of his MLAs, managed to save his government and push out Mr. Manjhi, who formed the Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM), now part of the NDA. "*Jo simhasan par baitha ho, wahi* Vikramaditya *hai* (he who occupies the throne is Vikramaditya)," a senior Janata Dal(U) leader, explaining the events of that time, said, alluding to the '*Simhasan Battisi*' stories of King Vikramaditya's throne and its unique propensity to accord wisdom to whoever occupied it.

In focus: Apart from Arvind Kejriwal and Manoj Sisodia, the AAP has a string of leaders who can occupy the Chief Minister's chair. ANI

Jharkhand situation

A similar situation occurred with Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren when he was arrested in January by the Enforcement Directorate. Unlike Mr. Kejriwal, he tendered his resignation and called a meeting of his MLAs, who elected Champai Soren as his replacement. Again, Mr. Champai Soren appeared reluctant to vacate the seat for Mr. Hemant Soren once the latter got bail and he subsequently parted ways with the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM).

To find a loyal placeholder is, therefore, not an easy task. The only successful placeholders in the past were O. Paneerselvam in Tamil Nadu and Rabri Devi in Bihar. Mr. Panneerselvam was CM twice between September 2001 and March 2002, and later in 2014-15, when the late Jayalalithaa was convicted, and again for two months in 2016 following her passing, when the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam elected Edappadi K. Palaniswami as its leader. Ms. Devi, wife of Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Lalu Prasad, took over in 1997 after her husband was arrested.

Mr. Kejriwal will need to ponder hard over his replacement, and to ensure that the replacement does not supplant him as the leader of the Aam Aadmi Party, a task that has challenged the best of political minds so far.

INBRIEF

SC to examine suggestions to stop 'bulldozer justice' today

The Supreme Court is scheduled on Wednesday to examine suggestions from petitioners seeking relief from States bulldozing the homes and private properties of undertrials and frame pan-India guidelines."How can anybody's home be demolished because he is an accused in a case? The law does not permit that... Can it happen even if a person is a convict?" Justice B.R. Gavai had orally remarked during a hearing on September 2. Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind, the main petitioner, has suggested prior notice of at least 45 to 60 days in advance of a demolition.

Sixth e-auction of PM's mementos from today

An array of gifts and mementos received by Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be put up for e-auction from September 17 to October 2 and the proceeds would be donated to the government's flagship 'Namami Gange' programme. The auction would be conducted online and would be open to the public at large, Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on Monday. The items include traditional art and craft, indigenous handicrafts, vibrant paintings, traditional *angavastrams*, shawls and head gear. This is the sixth time when the PM's mementos would go under the hammer.

18 fishermen missing at sea as heavy rain lashes Bengal

49 fishermen in three trawlers were stranded in the Bay of Bengal after they set sail on Saturday; search parties formed by local people establish contact with 31 and are towing 2 vessels to safety

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Forty-nine fishermen were stranded at sea amid heavy rain that has disrupted normal life in West Bengal. The fishermen had ventured into the Bay of Bengal in three trawlers from Diamond Harbour and Kwakdip near the Sundarbans on Saturday.

Local fishermen said they have established contact with 31 men in two trawlers that had set sail from Diamond Harbour, while the third trawler with 18 fishermen is yet to be traced.

Joy Krishna Haldar, general secretary of the United Fishermen Association of West Bengal, told *The Hindu* that they "pleaded" with the Coast Guard and Navy to send out search parties. "But they did not help much and said the sea was too turbulent. They said their rescue vessels are in the high seas. So we sent out six of our trawlers to rescue our fellow fishermen," he said.

While two trawlers with the fishermen are being towed back to safety, families of fishermen in the third trawler have filed missing reports at local police stations. Mr. Haldar said the 18 fishermen who had ventured from the Kwakdip coast still remained in danger as the rescue parties had failed to establish any contact.

West Bengal received 'largely excess rainfall' between September 13 and 15, which continued till Monday morning. FILE PHOTO

West Bengal received "largely excess rainfall" between September 13 and 15, which continued till Monday morning when the three trawlers went missing at sea.

In its official statement on Friday, the India Meteorological Department, Kolkata, said, "Deep depression over Gangetic West Bengal... it is likely to move slowly, nearly westwards across Gangetic West Bengal and maintain its intensity of deep depression till evening of September 15."

It issued a warning for coastal regions saying the sea conditions would likely be "rough to very rough", and added, "Fishermen are advised not to venture into the sea along and off West Bengal-Bangladesh and Odisha coasts and North Bay of Bengal till September 16." The stranded fishermen had ventured into the deep sea in search for the hilsa fish, said sources.

Officials also went around the coastal areas of the Sundarbans and urged fishermen not to go into the sea and to tie their trawlers and boats to coastal barricades. The local authorities have started a control room in the area.

Houses collapse

Multiple mud houses collapsed across Bengal as rain lashed 18 of the 23 districts. A woman died in the Block II area of Bankura district in a wall collapse. The victim was identified as Jyotsna Bagdi, 54. This is the second such death in the district this monsoon.

In Birbhum's Nanoor area, a family of four was injured after their kutcha house caved in. Two children, aged 11 and 14, are in critical condition.

In Paschim Medinipur district, multiple areas of Ghatal have been submerged. Locals agitated as flooding has become a yearly problem in the region despite multiple assurances by the authorities.

Delay in customs' portal update holds up export of onions

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Three days after the Union government slashed the export duty on onions to 20% from 40%, the produce worth lakhs of rupees are stuck at borders and ports, awaiting the system to be updated. Farmers and traders have not yet been able to benefit from the export duty cut owing to the delay.

Nearly 380 containers are stuck at various ports, including JNPT, while 90 lorries are stuck at two checkpoints on the Bangladesh border, said an official of the Horticulture Produce Exporters' Association.

Each container carries roughly 30 tonnes of cargo, while each lorry carries 25 to 30 tonnes of cargo.

"There is a technical issue on the customs' portal. There are two serial numbers on the portal for onions. But it does not process the order. We are unable to avail the 20% export duty. We can't even send the onions with 40% customs duty. Our onions are stuck for the last three days. And now we fear that the onions will start rotting," Vikas Singh, vice-president of the Horticulture Produce Exporters' Association, told *The Hindu*.

"Our containers are stuck everywhere. Tomorrow morning, almost 60 containers are planned to be sent to Malaysia and Singapore. The vessel has been booked. But if the containers are not cleared in the system, the vessel will leave [without] these containers," he said.

He said if the issue was not resolved within a few hours, 35 containers which are slated to reach Tuticorin port in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday morning will also be stuck. "Tuticorin is the sub-port for Sri Lanka. The vessel, which has already been booked, will arrive on Wednesday. So those 35 containers will need to be cleared on Tuesday."

"We have updated this to the Consumer Affairs Ministry and the Agriculture Ministry," he said.

Customs sources said there was a "system issue", which was being resolved. "Everything is being monitored. The communication has been sent to the concerned persons. It will be resolved soon."

HC upholds maintainability of petition filed by Singhvi challenging RS poll results

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

In a setback for the BJP Rajya Sabha member from Himachal Pradesh, Harsh Mahajan, the Himachal Pradesh High Court on Monday upheld the maintainability of the petition filed by Congress Rajya Sabha member from Telangana and senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi challenging the Rajya election results in Himachal Pradesh. Mr. Singhvi was defeated by Mr. Mahajan.

Mr. Singhvi moved the High Court in April, with senior advocates P. Chidambaram and Prashanto Chandra Sen, challenging the interpretation of rules in the process of results declaration. Only two leaders were contesting for the lone seat in Himachal Pradesh. It was a tie as both Mr. Singhvi and Mr. Mahajan, a Congress turncoat, secured 34 votes each. The winner was then announced by a draw of lots, which returned Mr. Singhvi's name, but the returning officer (RO) added one vote to the kitty of the respondent, who was declared the winner.

Abhishek Manu Singhvi

Mr. Singhvi's loss came as a major embarrassment for the ruling Congress in the State that had 40 MLAs and the support of three Independent MLAs. However, six Congress MLAs voted for Mr. Mahajan, their old aide, and even the Independents voted for the BJP candidate.

Mr. Singhvi contested whether the RO relied on the correct rules for carrying out the draw of lots to choose the candidate. The petitioner also contended that the RO ought to have relied upon Section 65 of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951 rather than Rule 75 and Rule 81(3) of the Election Rules, 1961.

Mr. Mahajan also approached the High Court, stating that material facts have not been stated in the petition filed by Mr. Singhvi and that his plea does not disclose any cause of action against the respondent.

The Bench of Justice Jyotsna Rewal Dua maintained the election petition filed by Mr. Singhvi discloses all material facts as required to be disclosed in law, and that the law does not obligate the petitioner to project the respondent's case in his petition.

Scientists seek transparency in Vigyan Puraskar selection process

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

A group of eminent scientists, all former recipients of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Awards, have written to the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) for clarification on whether the selection process employed to select winners of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) was "fully fair, transparent and free of extraneous considerations."

The RVP replaced the SSB awards - traditionally given to outstanding scientists younger than 45 - this year and, in its new avatar, was conferred on 33 scientists on August 23 by the President of India.

Traditionally, the SSB awards were administered by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) where a panel of scientists who are subject experts in a range of fields, are part of seven advisory committees to represent various scientific fields. They review the profiles of the nominated scientists and these advisory committees recommend final lists of scientists to the CSIR.

Scientists have sent a note to Principal Scientific Adviser Ajay Sood.

The RVP follows a different procedure. There is an apex Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Commitee (RVPC) which constitutes subject advisory committees, which give their recommendation of nominated scientists, and returns it to the RVPC. The RVPC is chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India and is made up of the Secretaries of the six Science Ministries/Departments; up to four presidents of the science and engineering academies and six "distinguished scientists and technologists".

The RVPC gives their final pruned list to the Science Minister for approval, the website says. Unlike the SSB awards, the RVP awards are administered by the government and not by the CSIR.

A media report alleged that some of the scientists who were part of the RVPC-vetted list were dropped at the last moment because they were critical of certain government policies. "We are writing to ask whether the recommendations of the RVPC were accepted in entirety, or were revised by further committees or authorities. In the latter case, we request that details of the nature of these committees and the criteria employed in arriving at their decisions be made public," said the letter.

There are 26 signatories to this letter, some of whom have earlier been part of SSB expert committees, and include senior scientists from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, the National Centre for Biological Sciences, the Harish-Chandra Research Institute and the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences. "Our queries are prompted by disquieting media reports which suggest that unfair non-scientific considerations may have influenced the final list of this year's awardees overriding the recommendations of the experts committee. We very much hope that these fears are unfounded, and feel that complete and detailed procedural transparency is the best way to set all doubts to rest, and to preserve the integrity of this prestigious award," the letter said.

Man who offered fake Army jobs arrested

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A man, who ran a massive recruitment racket across the country posing as an Army Major and duping many up to ₹4 crore, has been arrested from Ahmednagar of Maharashtra, in a joint operation by the military intelligence and Bingar Camp police. The police got remand of the man, identified as Satyajit Barath Kamble, for four days till Monday, and he would be produced before the district magistrate on Tuesday, officials said.

"The accused, along with accomplices, have duped hundreds of candidates under pretext of providing them jobs in the Army and the Military Engineer Services," a police statement said.

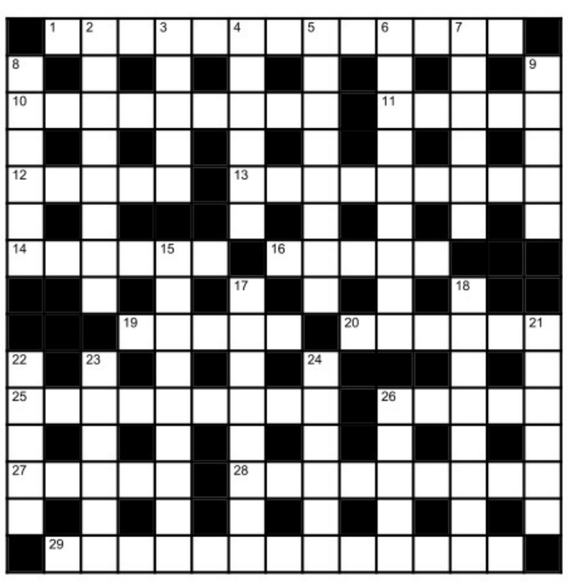
An Army source said this is expected to be a much bigger scam and the investigations would reveal the extent of it.

TH CROSSWORD + 14282

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Say, diamond prices to US, one had to recalibrate (8,5)
10 Reject original sound track, one should primarily enter contest (9)
11 Expression of approval from supporter, very outstanding basically (5)
12 Triple compound of nitre... (5)
13 ...say, found on border, towards US (9)
14 Labours seen at corner have starter of soup (6)
16 Counter provided some nachos, apples, oranges in the last-minute (5)
19 Former NZ cricketer is a rabbit (5)
20 Seaming wicket in first ground behind South End primarily (6)
25 Unusual manual, so First Officer's confounded (9)
26 Country special in a mess (5)
27 Plant in garden placed behind electricity meter (5)
28 Pastor Frost at stage between 8 pm and 10 pm IST (5,4)
29 Kindly suggest new heater to be given to daughter (13)

Down

2 Say, advance for shopkeeper to issue 50 for note (8)
3 Primarily cringe-worthy, destroy trend (5)
4 Say, windows in old town-house (vacated) is redundant (6)
5 Outline track is incomplete near a city, say (8)
6 Mixed water, ale and some bourbon in the dishes (9)
7 Initially not interested in procuring AC in compound (6)
8 Unborn child be enemy to US? No nothing. (6)
9 King of Rajasthan employed ambitious leaders from a peninsular region in Asia (5)
15 For a change, wanted HOD who's ambidextrous (3-6)
17 Erratic bowler without power, amateur, worse than expected (5,3)
18 OK to hire the greatest singer first and settle (8)
21 A bird is seen with princess during good times (6)
22 Alter? Alter afterwards (5)
23 Possible to replace one with unionist as substitute (6)
24 Dream like prince having passion (6)
26 Sweden's Ministry of External Affairs rule is a slander (5)

SUDOKU

	4			8	3			
3		8		1				
	2				4			1
	7		1					4
2			4		5			7
8					2		5	
9			8				1	
				6		9		2
			5	2			4	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

S	U	B	S	T	A	T	I	O	N		L	A	S	S
C		A		E		H		N		A		W		I
E	N	R	O	L	M	E	N	T		S	T	A	I	N
P		R		L		A		H		H		K		G
T	O	A	D	I	N	T	H	E	H	O	L	E		
I		C		N		R		G		R				W
C	L	U	N	G		E	X	O	N	E	R	A	T	E
I		D										B		A
S	P	A	R	T	A	C	U	S		S	T	O	M	P
M				U		O		H		E		R		O
		S	T	R	A	N	G	U	L	A	T	I	O	N
M		N		N		N		T		G		G		L
A	G	A	T	E		O	N	T	H	I	N	I	C	E
S		I		R		T		L		R		N		S
S	I	L	K		R	E	L	E	N	T	L	E	S	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	4	1	6	2	3	7	8	5
6	5	2	7	1	8	4	3	9
8	3	7	4	9	5	1	6	2
2	8	9	3	4	1	6	5	7
4	1	5	8	6	7	2	9	3
7	6	3	9	5	2	8	4	1
1	9	8	2	3	6	5	7	4
5	7	4	1	8	9	3	2	6
3	2	6	5	7	4	9	1	8

FAITH

Have love towards all

Tamil literature speaks of the need to have love towards all, said Malayaman in a discourse. Thiruvalluvar asks: "Of what use is your intelligence if you do not see another person's suffering as your own, and try to provide relief?" Thirumoolar had spiritual jnana, which he wanted to impart to the world. He says that he composed his Thirumantiram for the benefit of the world. Not content with having acquired jnana himself, he wanted everyone to have jnana. Thiruvalluvar says that the learned will want to study more, when they find that their learning brings joy to others too. Thirumoolar said that what was offered to man would reach God. So, if we offer food to the hungry, it is like offering food to God Himself. Vallalar was moved when he saw withering crops. He prayed that he should have love towards all living beings.

There were kings in Tamil Nadu who showed their concern not just for human beings, but for all living things. One day King Pegan saw a peacock getting drenched in rain. He put his shawl around it. King Paari saw a jasmine creeper lying on the ground. He picked it up and draped it around his royal chariot. People might argue that, instead, he could have built an arch for the creeper to climb on. But that would have taken time. The king provided immediate relief to the creeper, by offering it his chariot.

INBRIEF

Mahindra unveils Veero LCV at ₹7.99 lakh onwards

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., a leader in the light commercial vehicle (LCV) 3.5-tonne segment, has announced the introduction of the Mahindra Veero, starting at ₹7.99 lakh. "The Mahindra Veero will further strengthen our leadership in the LCV 3.5 t segment. Built to help customers maximise earnings, it offers best-in-class payload, exemplary mileage, and superior manoeuverability," said Veejay Nakra, president – Automotive Division, Mahindra & Mahindra.

Bajaj Housing Finance shares more than double on debut

Shares of Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd. made a solid market debut on Monday and ended with a huge premium of nearly 136% against the issue price of ₹70. The stock was listed at ₹150 on the BSE and NSE, reflecting a jump of 114% from the issue price. It zoomed 136% to settle at ₹164.99 – its upper circuit limit – on the BSE. At the NSE, shares of the firm surged 136% to settle at the upper circuit limit of ₹165. The company's market valuation stood at ₹1,37,406.09 crore. PTI

Renault opens bookings for Night & Day Limited Edition

Renault India has announced that bookings for the Night & Day Limited Edition of the Kiger, Triber and Kwid would commence on Tuesday. In all, 1,600 units will be available under this limited series for all models together, the French carmaker said. The limited edition vehicles come in an exclusive pearl white-with-mystery black roof dual tone body colour, a 9-inch touchscreen with wireless smart phone replication, rear-view camera, and rear power windows (on Triber).

'Sliding oil, OMC margins offer room for fuel price cut'

Economists cite global oil costs falling below $70 a barrel as making a strong case for a fuel price reduction; stress that cheaper fuel will also help slow the pace of inflation and boost consumption

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With global crude oil prices slipping below $70 a barrel, economists reckon there is a strong case for a fuel price cut, stressing that cheaper petrol and diesel would also help slow inflation, paving the way for interest rate cuts, and boost consumption.

While fuel prices are deregulated with oil marketing companies (OMCs) free to reset prices, in practice, prices have not been reset in line with supply price trends for a few years now. Retail prices for petroleum products have been static since March, when they were reduced by ₹2 a litre ahead of the general election.

Poll angle: The decision on the price cut may also be influenced by the upcoming elections in Maharashtra and Haryana. FILE PHOTO

"There is a strong case for another cut in fuel prices, possibly by ₹2-₹4 per litre if global crude prices continue to remain below $75 per barrel over the next one-two months," said Suman Chowdhury, ED and chief economist at Acuité Ratings & Research. "The decision on the price cut may also be influenced by the upcoming State elections in Maharashtra and Haryana," he added.

Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis said softening oil prices will help control India's import bill and stabilise the rupee, but the impact on retail inflation will depend on government action.

SEBI takes back contentious release after staff protest

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on Monday withdrew a controversial press release, in which it had alleged that employees were being influenced by external elements, and condemned the unauthorised release of internal communication.

"SEBI and its employees have reaffirmed that such issues are strictly internal and will be managed in accordance with the organisation's high standards of governance and with a time-bound framework" the markets watchdog said in a statement.

SEBI had in the now withdrawn statement of September 4 asserted that officers' claims of an unprofessional work culture were "misplaced" and contended that the junior officers had been "been receiving messages from external elements outside their group, effectively instigating them to... go to media, go to the Ministry, go to Board... perhaps to serve their own purpose".

Following this, several employees of SEBI had staged a silent protest for about 90 minutes within the office premises on September 5.

About two weeks after the protest, SEBI chose to withdraw the contentious press release saying that all concerns would be amicably addressed through internal channels.

BJP MP seeks RBI probe into 'nexus' between banks and e-tailers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

BJP MP Praveen Khandelwal has written to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, alleging an "unhealthy nexus" between banks, e-com players like Amazon and Flipkart, and brand owners, and urged the RBI to issue "immediate directions to banks to cease offering exclusive discounts and cashback benefits" that are not extended to traditional retailers.

Mr. Khandelwal, who is also the secretary general of the Confederation of All India Traders, urged Mr. Das to initiate a probe into banks' partnerships with e-tailers and their impact on purchasing patterns such as proliferation of online mobile phone purchases using bank cards.

Praveen Khandelwal

Start-up India to move out of Invest India's ambit, says Goyal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Moots housing it as a non-profit under section 8 of 2013 Companies Act; with SIDBI's involvement

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday announced the Centre's Start-up India initiative will be moved out of the aegis of the official investment promotion and facilitation agency Invest India, to a new non-profit company that could also house the National Start-up Advisory Council.

"Let us create a company, under Section 8 [of the Companies Act]... Today, Start-up India is housed in Invest India... It is such a powerful ecosystem on its own, [it] should have a house of its own. The ministry can start the firm quickly, SIDBI can also be actively involved," he added, unveiling Bharat Start-up Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR), a networking site for start-ups.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,989	0.12
US Dollar	83.86	0.07
Brent oil	72.51	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2984.90	16.55
Adani Ports	1440.70	-11.40
Apollo Hosp	7031.35	12.20
Asian Paints	3335.80	-22.25
Axis Bank	1231.05	13.60
Bajaj Auto	11688.35	-48.80
Bajaj Finserv	1857.60	-36.85
Bajaj Finance	7345.75	-252.75
Bharti Airtel	1635.45	1.00
BPCL	340.65	-1.65
Britannia Ind	6063.00	-70.10
Cipla	1659.40	-0.30
Coal India	493.25	3.00
Divis Lab	5479.35	-19.30
Dr Reddys Lab	6647.10	-13.60
Eicher Motors	4899.20	40.90
Grasim Ind	2765.30	-19.05
HCL Tech	1811.85	-0.95
HDFC Bank	1670.95	5.00
HDFC Life	701.35	-4.05
Hero MotoCorp	5779.45	-16.35
Hindalco	685.15	11.90
Hind Unilever	2867.10	-65.85
ICICI Bank	1262.85	12.50
IndusInd Bank	1470.20	6.15
Infosys	1950.25	6.15
ITC	511.10	-2.75
JSW Steel	971.00	16.45
Kotak Bank	1831.30	10.95
L&T	3662.25	49.25
LTIMindtree Ltd.	6423.45	7.25
M&M	2757.40	18.30
Maruti Suzuki	12289.00	-27.05
NestleIndia	2549.60	18.20
NTPC	411.10	9.70
ONGC	292.50	1.05
PowerGrid Corp	338.25	1.00
Reliance Ind	2942.70	-2.55
SBI Life	1821.25	-25.25
State Bank	785.55	-5.30
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3418.95	50.70
Sun Pharma	1862.95	9.20
TataConsumerProduct	1218.50	8.20
Tata Motors	988.40	-3.70
Tata Steel	154.21	0.72
TCS	4513.25	-9.35
Tech Mahindra	1649.00	-7.05
Titan	3740.65	-26.35
UltraTech Cement	11642.65	-75.30
Wipro	551.90	1.30

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 16

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.69	84.01
Euro	93.10	93.46
British Pound	110.45	110.88
Japanese Yen (100)	59.75	59.98
Chinese Yuan	11.79	11.84
Swiss Franc	99.10	99.49
Singapore Dollar	64.62	64.88
Canadian Dollar	61.65	61.89
Malaysian Ringitt	19.44	19.54
Australian Dollar	56.42	56.64

Source:Indian Bank

LIC selects Infosys to develop digital platform

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The LIC has selected IT major Infosys to develop its NextGen digital platform.

"This will be an integrated, end-to-end digital insurance solution providing excellent services to customers, business lifecycle management and operational activities for sales intermediaries and digital front-end platform for branch employees," the Life Insurance Corporation of India said. The digital platform would also serve as an open platform, enabling swift integration with fintech companies and bancassurance partners.

TVS Motor unveils all new Apache RR310 in two variants

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

TVS Motor Company has unveiled the Apache RR 310, its flagship offering in the Super Premium Sports Motorcycle category, in two variants and with three built-to-order (BTO) customisation options.

The new offerings come in three colours – Racing Red (without quickshifter) priced at ₹2,75,000, Red (with quickshifter) at ₹2,92,000 and the Bombay Grey available at ₹2,97,000. The BTO dynamic kit is priced at ₹18,000, the dynamic pro kit at ₹16,000, and the race replica colour kit costs ₹7,000, the company said. "The new TVS Apache RR 310 redefines the arena of super-premium sport motorcycles," Vimal Sumbly, Head Business - Premium, said in a statement.

TVS Apache RR 310 is crafted from a record-breaking race machine, the company claims SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shapoorji firm Afcons gets nod for ₹7,000 cr. IPO

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Afcons Infrastructure Ltd. (AIL), the infrastructure, engineering and construction firm of the Shapoorji Pallonji group said it had received final observation from the capital markets regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India, for its ₹7,000 crore initial public offering (IPO).

The IPO, with a face value of ₹10 per equity share, would be a mix of fresh issue worth ₹1,250 crore and an offer for sale of up to ₹5,750 crore by Goswami Infratech Pvt. Ltd. Up to ₹150 crore of the proceeds will be used toward capex.

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)
O&M Circle , Chikkamagalur. Ph: 08262 - 295513
CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: MESCOM/SEE/OMC/CKM/EE/AEE/JE-2/2024-25/1/106612/2024 Date: 03-09-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

MESCOM invites the tender for the work in the area of Hunsaghatta Section of Tarikere sub-division of Kaduru division of Chikkamagaluru circle, A short-term tender has been called for the work of shifting the power line 11 KV passed in the premises of Dr.B. R. Ambedkar Girls' Residential School.

The bids will be received through Electronic Tendering Mode only. The details of tender notification can be obtained by logging on to **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **19.09.2024**. Any further details can be obtained from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.),
O&M Circle, Chikkamagalur

DIPR/ADM/KSMCA/625/24-25 dt: 13.09.2024

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LOST & FOUND

WE THE under signed bring it to the Notice of the General Public that my daughter Kavya Vudarla D/O V Vijaya Kumar Reddy, R/at E–104, Shriram Luxor, Hennur–Bagalur Main Road, Kannur, Bengaluru–560077,has lost the Original Certificates of ICSE X Class statement of marks No. 7525142 and also ICSE X class pass certificate No. 7525142 both the certificates issued by the St. Francis Xaviers Girls' High School, Bengaluru while settling house on 13.09.2024the said Original documents were lost, hence our client lodged online complaint for the lost of Article Repost No. 1239690, Police Unit, Bengaluru City, If anyone find the aforsaid documents is hereby requested to hand over the same to our home at the address mentioned here under V.Vijaya Kumar Reddy, E–104, Shriram Luxor, Hennur–Bagalur Main Road, Kannur, Bengaluru–560077.Mobile No: 91–9886318290

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE VIII ADDL. DISTRICT JUDGE, CHITTOOR,AP
O.S.No.20 of 2023
Between
K.Jayarama Reddy ...Plaintiff
And
K.Saraswathi and others ...Defendants

SUMMONS TO D2

D2) K.Prasanth Reddy,
S/o Late K.Rajendra Reddy, No.31, 10th cross, Maruthi Nagar, Nagashetty halli, **Bangalore-560094**
Sir,
Please take summons that the plaintiff filed the above partition against you and **I.A.No.85 of 2023** for temporary injunction and the above suit and I.A stands posted to **01-10-2024** for your appearance. Therefore, you please appear before the above court on **01-10-2024 at 10-30 A.M** either by you personally or through your advocate and file your written statement and counter if any, otherwise the matter will be decided ex-parte according to law.

S/d- **U.SESHADRI NAIDU**
Advocate for Plaintiff
Chittoor, Date: 15-09-2024

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform and whatsoever it may concern that my client has intending to purchase the schedule Property from its present owner viz., **Sri.Keshava.R,** S/o. Ramachandrappa, aged about 39 years, R/at.Mandibele Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

If any third party/s Person/s has/have any manner of right, title, interest, demand, clients, charges or lien over the schedule property they are hear by requested to file the objections to this sale transaction or mortgage of said property to the financial intuitions/Bank/third parties and shell informed/said object the same in writing along with the photocopies, related such claims, objections through the RPAD with the under mentioned address within 10 days from the publication of this notice.

If no valid claim/objections are received by the undersigned as aforesaid, my client shall proceed to complete the sale transaction deeming that apart from the aforesaid owner no one else has/have any manner of right or claim or interest whatsoever over the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item No.1: All that piece & parcel of **Un-developed Residential Converted land bearing Sy.No.498, measuring an extent of 0-19 Guntas, (Conversion Order No.189816 dated 15.12.2020 order passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District) situated at Vijayapura Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**

Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of the immovable **Un-Developed Residential converted property bearing Sy. No.497, measuring 1 Acre 33 guntas, (Conversion No.189817 dated 10.12.2020 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District), situated at Vijayapura Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**

Item No.3: All that piece & parcel of **Un-developed Residential Converted land bearing Sy.No.461, measuring an extent of 2 acres, (Conversion Order No.529875 dated 20.09.2023 order passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District) situated at Vijayapura Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**

Item No.4: All that piece and parcel of the immovable **Un-Developed Residential converted property bearing Sy. No.486, measuring 2 Acres, (Conversion No.494699 dated 15.05.2023 issued by Deputy commissioner, Bangalore Rural District), situated at Vijayapura Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**

Item No.5: All that piece & parcel of Agricultural Dry land in **Sy. No. 159/P2 measuring 2 acres, situated at Vijayapura Village, Vijaypura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**

Item No.6: All that piece & parcel of Agricultural Dry land in **Sy. No. 159/P4 measuring 2 acres, situated at Vijayapura Village, Vijaypura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District**

Item No.7: All that piece and parcel of the immovable **Un-Developed Residential converted property bearing Sy. No.162/1, measuring 2 Acres 37 guntas, (Conversion No.LAND10007026 dated 28.08.2024 issued by Deputy commissioner, Bangalore Rural District), situated at Mandibele Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**

Item No.8: All that piece and parcel of the immovable **Un-Developed Residential converted property bearing Sy. No.162/2, measuring 0-35 guntas, (Conversion No.427148 dated 16.03.2023 issued by Deputy commissioner, Bangalore Rural District), situated at Mandibele Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**

Item No.9: All that piece and parcel of the immovable **Un-Developed Residential converted property bearing Sy. No.162/3, measuring 0-35 guntas, (Conversion No.427149 dated 16.03.2023 issued by Deputy commissioner, Bangalore Rural District), situated at Mandibele Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**

Item No.10: All that piece and parcel of the immovable **Un-Developed Residential converted property bearing Sy. No.135, measuring 2 Acres, (Conversion No.190384 dated 10.12.2020 issued by Deputy commissioner, Bangalore Rural District), situated at Mandibele Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**

Item No.11: All that piece and parcel of the immovable **Un-Developed Residential converted property bearing Sy. No.114/1, measuring 0-29 guntas, (Conversion 195339 dated 10.12.2020 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District), situated at Chikkatathamangala Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**

Item No.12: All that piece and parcel of the immovable **Un-Developed Residential converted property bearing Sy. No.114/2, measuring 1 acre 11 guntas, (Conversion 396139 dated 08.09.2022 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District), situated at Chikkatathamangala Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**

Item No.13: All that piece and parcel of the immovable **Un-Developed Residential converted property bearing Sy. No.138, measuring 2 Acres, (Conversion No.DMD398024965298F dated 26.07.2019 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District), situated at Chikkatathamangala Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**

Item No.14: All that piece and parcel of the immovable **Un-Developed Residential converted property bearing Sy. No.120, E-Katha No.150300200101220615, Property No.196/120, measuring 4 Acres 38 guntas, (20032.00 Sq Meters) (Conversion No.292352 dated 13.01.2022 issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore Rural District), situated at Chikkatathamangala Village, Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.**

K.V. MAHENDRA KUMAR, Advocate
1st Floor, Lakshmi Complex, Sulibele Road, Devanahalli – 562 110 **Mobile: 9538276877**

Mercedes-Benz rolls out Made in India BEV EQS 580 at ₹1.41 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Mercedes-Benz India announced the roll out of its second 'Made in India' battery electric vehicle EQS SUV 580 4matic at an introductory price of ₹1.41 crore (ex-showroom all India).

"Out of the 12 launches announced for 2024, this is the eleventh. This is the third BEV to be unveiled in the last three months," MD & CEO Santosh Iyer said during an interaction.

The vehicle is targeted at those in the age group of 32-45 years and at second generation entrepreneurs.

The CEO said with its 400 kw power output, the new SUV can sprint from 0-100 kmph in 4.7 seconds and offers a range of 809 km as certified by ARAI. It has the largest battery capacity of 122 kWh for a passenger vehicle in India.

The company offers battery warranty for 10 years or unlimited km, and a high residual value of 60% after three years and/or 45,000 km.

Curb online service's tax evasion by sharing info: DGGI to foreign govts.

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

DGGI has noticed entities like online casinos that appear to intentionally avoid tax compliance

GST investigation arm DGGI has suggested reciprocal arrangements with foreign governments for information sharing and enforcement measures and to block websites to prevent tax evasion in OIDAR services like e-gaming and online education.

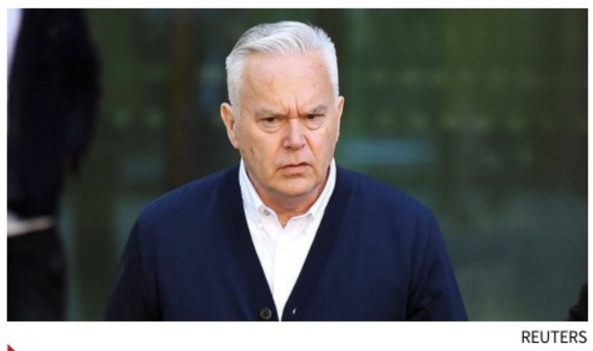
This has been necessitated as DGGI has noticed that there are entities, including online casinos that are based out of tax havens and those which operate through offshore VPNs and cloud-based platforms.

These entities are non-cooperative and appear to intentionally avoid tax compliance, and hence an information exchange with global law enforcement agencies would help crack down on any evasion.

Online Information and Database Access or Retrieval (OIDAR) services are those which are delivered over the Internet and whose supply is impossible without information technology. 574 offshore entities providing OIDAR services have registered with the GST department so far.

LONDON

Ex-BBC anchor avoids jail over 'repugnant' images of children



REUTERS

Ex-BBC anchor Huw Edwards on Monday avoided jail at his sentencing over indecent pictures of children, capping a stunning fall from grace. The 63-year-old presenter was instead handed a six-month sentence, suspended for two years, meaning he will not serve any time in prison if he does not reoffend. AFP

LAHORE

Pak. police demolish minarets of worship place of Ahmadi group

AFP

The police allegedly demolished the minarets of a 40-year-old worship place of the minority Ahmadi community in Pakistan's Punjab province, the Jamaat-e-Ahmadiyya Pakistan said. The incident took place in Depalpur, about 130 km from Lahore. The religious body said over a dozen policemen were involved. PTI

ROME

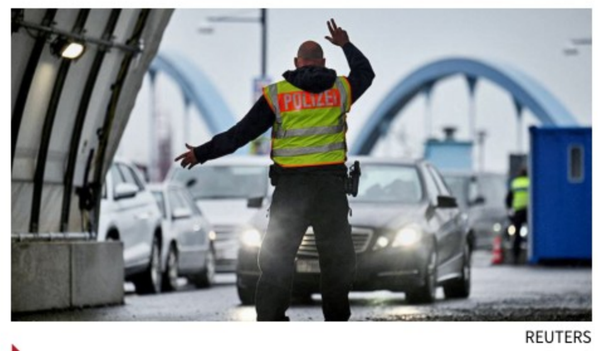
U.K. PM praises Italy's Meloni for reducing illegal migration

AP

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer praised his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni on Monday for her efforts in reducing illegal migration. On his first visit to Italy since his centre-left Labour Party's landslide victory in July, Starmer expressed interest in the immigration policies of far-right leader Meloni. AFP

FRANKFURT

Germany expands border control measures to curb migrant arrivals



REUTERS

Germany on Monday expanded border controls to the frontiers with all its nine neighbours in hopes of curbing the flow of irregular migrants. Federal police braved rains at road and highway crossings for spot checks of cars, buses and other vehicles, asking to see people's identity papers and checking the trunks of some cars. AFP

Assassination bid thwarted at Trump's Florida golf course

Latest attempt on his life comes two months after he was shot at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, sustaining a minor injury to his right ear; suspect has been identified as a 58-year-old from Hawaii

Reuters

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump was safe on Sunday after the Secret Service foiled what the FBI called an apparent assassination attempt while he was golfing on his course in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Several Secret Service agents fired on a gunman in bushes near the property line of the golf course after he was spotted a few hundred yards from where Mr. Trump was playing, law enforcement officials said.

The suspect left an AK-47-style assault rifle and other items at the scene and fled in a vehicle and was later arrested.

Minor scare: A police officer outside Trump International Golf Club after the apparent assassination attempt on Monday. AP

The apparent attempt on Mr. Trump's life came just two months after he was shot at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, sustaining a minor injury to his right ear.

"I would like to thank everyone for your concern and well wishes – It was certainly an interesting day!," Mr. Trump said on social media late on Sunday.

CNN, *Fox News* and *The New York Times* identified the suspect as Ryan Wesley Routh, 58, of Hawaii.

Motive unknown

It was not clear if or how the suspect knew Mr. Trump was playing golf at the time, or what his motive was, but the attempted attack was sure to raise new questions about the level of protection he is given. In response to a reporter's question, officials acknowledged that because Mr. Trump is not in office, the full golf course was not cordoned off.

President Joe Biden later said he had directed his team to ensure the Secret Service has the resources it needs to ensure Mr. Trump's safety.

Time 'running out' to stop all-out Lebanon war: Gallant

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said on Monday that prospects were dimming for a halt in nearly a year of fighting with Hamas ally Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The Iran-backed Lebanese armed group has traded regular cross-border fire with Israeli forces since Hamas's October 7 attack sparked war in the Gaza Strip, in a campaign Hezbollah has said was in support of its Palestinian ally.

According to a statement from Mr. Gallant's office, the Israeli Minister told his U.S. counterpart, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, in a call that "the possibility for an agreed framework in the northern arena is running out as Hezbollah continues to tie itself to Hamas."

Tense border: Smoke billows from the site of an Israeli air strike that targeted the Lebanese village of Houla on Monday. AFP

While repeated rounds of talks mediated by the U.S., Qatar and Egypt have sought a truce in Gaza, there have been no signs of progress in diplomacy aimed at halting the fighting between Hezbollah and Israel.

Hezbollah officials have said the group would stand down if a Gaza ceasefire is reached, while Israel insists it cannot allow militants to remain in the border area in Lebanon's south.

Tensions in Cabinet

The statement came as several Israeli media including left-leaning Haaretz daily reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was considering firing Gallant, which Netanyahu's office denied.

At least 18 killed in Israeli strikes across Gaza Strip

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

Gaza rescuers and medics said Israeli air strikes killed at least 18 people across the Palestinian territory overnight and on Monday morning, including 10 in one attack on a house.

The 10 were killed and 15 others were injured when an air strike hit the home of the al-Qassas family in the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza.

Six Palestinians were killed in a similar air strike during the night on a house belonging to the Bassal family in Gaza City's Zeitun, a regular target of Israeli military raids. Two people were killed in another overnight strike in Rafah that targeted a house belonging to the Abu Shaar family.

Morality police will not 'bother' women, says Iran's Pezeshkian

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian vowed on Monday to use his power to ensure that morality police do not "bother" women, speaking on the second anniversary of Mahsa Amini's death in custody.

"Morality police were not supposed to confront (women). I will follow up so they don't bother" them, Mr. Pezeshkian said during his first press conference in Iran since taking office in late July.

Mr. Pezeshkian's remarks came as the Islamic republic marked the anniversary of the September 2022 death of 22-year-old Iranian Kurd Mahsa Amini in police custody.

Masoud Pezeshkian

Ms. Amini had been arrested for allegedly violating strict dress rules for women. Her death triggered months-long protests in Iran, with hundreds of people, including security personnel, killed in the unrest. Thousands of demonstrators were arrested.

Taliban call off polio vaccination drives: UN

Associated Press
DUBAI

The Taliban have suspended polio vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan, the UN said on Monday. It's a devastating setback for polio eradication, since the virus is one of the world's most infectious.

Afghanistan is one of two countries in which the spread of the potentially fatal, paralysing disease has never been stopped. The other is Pakistan. No reason was given for the suspension.

The WHO has confirmed 18 polio cases in Afghanistan this year, all but two in the south of the country. That's up from six cases in 2023.

Police arrest two senior media professionals in Bangladesh

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Two prominent journalists of Bangladesh, known for their work in both print and TV, were arrested by the police on Monday morning in Mymensingh. Editor of *Bhorer Kagoj* Shyamal Datta, and Muzammil Babu, Managing Director and Chief Editor of Ekattor TV, one of the biggest TV channels in Dhaka, were surrounded by a mob who took them to a police station in the district, sources have informed. They were subsequently taken to Dhaka.

Mr. Datta is known for extensive coverage of India-Bangladesh relations and has in the past often courted controversy for his revealing reports and analyses. Similarly, the Muzamil Babu-led *Ekattor TV* is known for its coverage of the South Asian scenario. Both the journalists had visited India on June 21 during the state visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Dozens of journalists have had cases lodged against them in Bangladesh in recent weeks. Meanwhile, the arrests of Mr. Datta and Mr. Babu are believed to be related to some of the cases that pertain to the period of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. A source in Bangladesh pointed out that genocide cases have been lodged against Ms. Hasina for her role in the killing of protesters during July-August 2024 and the two senior media professionals have been arrested for remarks that they might have made regarding the protest.

Mr. Datta was earlier apprehended in August near the Indian border in Akhaura but was released from custody by the authorities subsequently. However, Monday's arrest which took place in Dhobaura of Mymensing bordering Meghalaya has triggered speculation that both were planning to cross over into India.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL (R&B) CIRCLE , BHUBANESWAR.
Mail i.d. : seccbbsr@gmail.com
E-procurement Tender Call Notice No.03 of 2024-25
No.3599 (Estg.) Bhubaneswar the 12th September-2024
The Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for one number Building work to be received in online bidding, double cover system for construction work as detailed in: https://tendersodisha.gov.in. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from 5.00 P.M. of 21.09.2024 to 5.00 P.M of 05.10.2024. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened at 11.00 A.M. of 07.10.2024 in the Office of the Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.
Sd/- Er. M.R.Behera
Chief Construction Engineer, Central (R&B) Circle, Bhubaneswar.
B-264: OIPR-34005/11/0006/2425

ANDHRA PRADESH STATE CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
Head Office: 10-152/1, Ashoknagar, Bandar Road, Vijayawada-520007
Lr.No.Proc./ M2/ KMS-2023-24 Dated: 16/09/2024
TENDER NOTICE
Appointment of District Wise Paddy Transport Contractors in 26 Districts of Andhra Pradesh for Transportation of Paddy from PPCs at RSKs to Rice Mills within and outside the Districts for KMS 2024-25 & 2025-26 under Zone- I, II & III through NCDEX e Markets Limited (NeML) auction platform in Andhra Pradesh.
APSCSCL invites district wise Paddy Transport Contractors for Transportation of Paddy from PPCs at RSKs to Rice Mill within and outside the Districts for KMS 2024-25 & 2025-26 under Zone-I, II & III through NeML Platform.
Interested Tenderers may visit website www.apscscl.in and also www.neml.in to view and download tender documents, free of cost.
Those who are interested to participate in tender should be registered with NCDEX e-Markets Ltd. on their website www.neml.in and can contact the Customer Service Group on phone numbers (+91-22)-48810500 / 9962059599 / 9032429420 or email: askus@neml.in
Last date for online registration and completion of formalities for submitting the online tenders shall be up to 01.10.2024 by 5.00 PM IST and the tentative date of online e-reverse auction through NeML platform would be on 07.10.2024 to 09.10.2024.
Sd/- VC & MANAGING DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
Phone No. : (0663)-2412135;
Email ID : eephdsbp@gmail.com
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, P.H. DIVISION, SAMBALPUR.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS-NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Bid Identification No. SEPHSBP-04/2024-25 Dt.12.09.2024

01.	Name of the Work	: 2 nos Works
02.	Type of Bid	: Two Bid System
03.	Estimated Cost	: Rs.107.13 Lakhs to Rs. 280.51 Lakhs
04.	Period of Completion	: 9 (Nine) Calendar Months
05.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 AM of dt.21.09.2024 to 5.00 PM of 07.10.2024
06.	Last date / time of receipt of bids in the portal	: 5.00 PM of 07.10.2024
07.	Date & Time of opening of Techinal Bids	: At 11.30 AM of 08.10.2024
08.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid.	: Superintending Engineer, P.H.Division, Sambalpur, Brooks' Hill, Near Stadium, At/Po-Motijharan, Dist - Sambalpur-768 001.

Further details can be seen from the web site : http://tenders.ori.nic.in or www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Superintending Engineer, PH Division, Sambalpur
C-603: OIPR-13026/11/0006/2425

GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ROADS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT (HPSRTP)
Request for Quotations (RFQ)
Name of Project: Himachal Pradesh State Roads Transformation Project (HPSRTP)
Loan No./Credit No. 9066-IN
Grant No:
Date: September 17, 2024
The Director (Projects), H.P. State Roads Project, HPRIDCL, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002 , Himachal Pradesh India invites the Request for Quotations from national suppliers for the Goods Procurement as detailed in the table below:-

Sr. No.	Description of the Goods Procurement	Date of availability of Request for Bids on HPRIDCL web site	Last date/Time for submission of Proposals/ Opening of proposals
1.	Procurement of Accessories and Fabrication of Patrol Motorcycles to support Annual Enforcement Program of HP Police in Kangra & Mandi Police Districts. Reference No.: : IN-HPRIDC-446102-GO-RFQ	September 17 , 2024	October 08, 2024 at 15:00/ 15:30 hours (IST)

Request for Quotations (RFQ) will be available on the official web site of HPRIDCL under link http://himachalservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html .
Note: - Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this Request for Quotations (RFQ) Document shall be available to all interesting firms on the same web site link. Proposal must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by post) by October 08, 2024 at 15:00 hours (IST) positively.
Director (Projects),
State Roads Project, HPRIDCL,
Nirman Bhawan, Shimla-171002
HP / 0438/2024-2025

BRIC NIAB
National Institute of Animal Biotechnology
राष्ट्रीय पशु जैव प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
National Institute of Animal Biotechnology
An Autonomous Institute of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt of India
Sy. No.37, Opp. Journalist Colony, Extended Q City Road, Near Gowlidoddi, Gachibowli, Hyderabad-500032, Tel: +91 40 2312 0103/115; Email: admin@niab.org.in; Web: www.niab.res.in
Advt. No. 26/2024
NIAB, an autonomous institute under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, is aimed to harness novel and emerging biotechnologies and create knowledge in the cutting edge areas for improving animal health and productivity. NIAB invites applications from Indian citizens for the following positions:

Position : Librarian	Pay Level -6 as per 7 CPC	No of post : 1 - UR

For more details, please visit NIAB website www.niab.res.in
Date of commencement of online applications: 17th September 2024
Last date for submitting online applications: 16th October 2024
Sd/- DIRECTOR, NIAB

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
e-AUCTION TENDER NOTIFICATION
e-Auction for Sale of Press Jelly, Office Sweeping/ records etc., (As-it-is where-it-is condition) 3rd call in TTD Press. For Tender Notice & details, please see the Auction ID: 24703. Roc.No.P2/36/Press/2014. Please log on the website http://www.tirumala.org and https://konugolu.ap.gov.in.
For further details contact: 0877-2264292.
TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv.No.145), Date:16-09-2024 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CIDCO
WE MAKE CITIES
NOTICE INVITING BID
DBO Tender for Tertiary Treatment of Sewage for Industrial Reuse at Taloja MIDC.
CIDCO of Maharashtra Limited through the process of E-tendering invites "ON LINE" item rate bids in three packet system (Packets A, B & C) on "Design, Build and Operate (DBO) basis as DBO contract" from experienced prospective bidders fulfilling the mandatory eligibility criteria and scoring minimum qualifying marks of 75 in the Technical bid evaluation, comprising of total 100 marks, registered with CIDCO Ltd. or with Central Govt., or with State Govt. of Maharashtra and its undertakings. Details shall be available on https://mahatenders.gov.in from 20/09/2024 at 17.01 Hrs :
1)Name of Work: DBO Tender for Tertiary Treatment of Sewage for Industrial Reuse at Taloja MIDC. Milestone-1 (Phase-1) comprising of 50 MLD Kalamboli STP Refurbishment with Additional Works, 20 MLD Tertiary Treatment Plant, 20 MLD Tertiary Treated Sewage Pumping Station with Rising Main. Milestone-2 (Phase-1) comprising of 70 MLD Kharghar STP Refurbishment with Additional Works and 20 MLD Secondary Sewage Pumping Station with Rising Main. Milestone-3 (Phase-2) comprising of 20 MLD Secondary Sewage Pumping Station, 20 MLD Tertiary Treatment Plant and 20 MLD Tertiary Treated Sewage Pumping Station and 10 Years of Operation and Maintenance after completion of Milestone-1 for all the above units. (The TTP & TTSPS shall be based on 70:30 deferred payment model). 2) C.A. No. : 02/CIDCO/EE(Sewerage Project)/2024-25 3) Tender Processing Fee: ₹70,800.00 (including 18% GST (Non-Refundable))
Bid Document along with Bidding programme will be available on the website https://mahatenders.gov.in from 20/09/2024 at 17.01 Hrs.
Superintending Engineer
(Sewerage Project)
CIN - U99999 MH 1970 SGC-014574
www.cidco.maharashtra.gov.in
CIDCO/PR/225/2024-25

LINKING UP

Sarfaraz joins the India squad ahead of first Test in Chennai

R. RAGU

India middle-order batter Sarfaraz Khan joined the squad for the first Test against Bangladesh after the second Duleep Trophy. The Mumbai batter made his international debut against England earlier this year, featuring in three Tests. However, with K.L. Rahul back in the mix, it remains to be seen if Sarfaraz finds a place in the Playing XI.

SWEATING IT OUT

India fielding coach Dilip happy with the training session

R. RAGU

Fielding coach T. Dilip was impressed with the intensity of the Indian unit despite the punishing Chennai weather. "Overall, I feel it was a fantastic session, considering the hot overhead sun and getting used to it but one great part about this team is throughout all stations, the intensity was top-notch," Dilip told *bcci.tv*.

COVERING ALL BASES

Indians working on mental strength ahead of World Cup: Harmanpreet

ANI

Indian players have been working on their mental strength for a "long time" which should help the team in overcoming hurdles, says skipper Harmanpreet Kaur ahead of the upcoming women's T20 World Cup next month. "In the last 4-5 overs, the team that is mentally strong wins the match. We have been focusing on this for a while."

CANDID

Gukesh is the favourite for World title match, says Ding

GRANDCHESSTOUR

Ding Liren says Gukesh can be considered the favourite for the World title. "I can see him playing extremely well in the Olympiad. Maybe he is a favourite. He also has a higher rating than me. I have dropped a lot since last year, but I will fight my best to try to overcome the rating difference"

Rampant India majestically marches into summit clash

Harmanpreet's brace, Uttam's opener and Jarmanpreet's effort do the trick as the defending champion routs Korea in the second semifinal; China gets the better of Pakistan in a shootout

ACT

Press Trust of India
HULUNBUIR (CHINA)

First salvo: Uttam started the goal rush for India with a 13th-minute strike. X@THEHOCKEYINDIA

Skipper Harmanpreet Singh's sublime form resulted in twin strikes as defending champion India entered the final of the Hero Asian Champions Trophy with a clinical 4-1 win against South Korea in the second semifinal on Monday. India will take on China in Tuesday's final.

India scored through Uttam Singh (13th minute), Harmanpreet Singh (19th, 45th), and Jarmanpreet Singh (32nd), while Korea's lone goal came through a penalty corner conversion from Yang Jihun (33rd).

Earlier in the day, the host defeated Pakistan 2-0 via the shootout after the teams finished 1-1 at the end of regulation time.

The Indians started on the offensive and tested the Korean defence with persistent attacks from the word go. The Koreans, on the other hand, were contend to sit back and defend and rely on sporadic counter attacks.

Abhishek came tantalisingly close to handing India the lead in the fourth minute but his reverse hit was brilliantly saved by Korean goalkeeper Kim Jaehan.

India's attacking intent paid off in the 13th minute when Uttam positioned himself at the right place to tap in Araijeet Singh Hundal's supply from the right. A minute from the first break, Korea secured back-to-back penalty corners but failed to utilise the chances.

Four minutes into the second quarter, India secured its first penalty corner and Harmanpreet scored his sixth goal of the tournament.

At the stroke of half-time, custodian Suraj Karkera came out of his line to thwart a Korean effort.

India continued in the same vein after the change of ends and extended the lead two minutes into the third quarter.

A brilliant scoop from Sumit from the right found Jarmanpreet just outside the circle on the left flank and the latter neatly collected the ball, took a step or two to get inside the circle before slapping the ball in. Korea pulled one back a minute later from a penalty corner through the tournament's top-scorer Yang Jihun.

The Indians continued their attacking game and dominated the share of exchanges. With a second left for the third quarter, India secured another penalty corner when 'keeper Jaehan was shown the yellow card for handling the ball out side the circle. Harmanpreet made no mistake.

Eight minutes from the final hooter, Karkera made a fine double save to deny Park Cheoleon. Thereafter, it was controlled show from the Indians as they defended their lead with ease to march into their fifth final appearance in the tournament.

After acing the Pakistan test, Bangladesh prepares itself for a stiffer challenge against India

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Takeoff time: India and Jurel will look to make a flying start against Bangladesh in the new Test season opener. R. RAGU

Bangladesh has had a tough last few months, dealing with internal political turmoil followed by floods that affected the daily lives of scores of its citizens.

Even as things were on the boil at home, the cricket team pulled off a stunning upset away in Pakistan, sweeping the two-Test series 2-0 recently, bringing some succour to the embattled nation.

Fresh from the historic series win, Najmul Hossain Shanto's men embark on their next big challenge, searching for their first Test victory against India. The two-match series, though, will be a much more daunting task.

It will be a true test of how far the outfit has come in the longest format, for India has lost just four Tests in its backyard in the last decade.

Different scenario

The visitors have a balanced squad to give India a run for its money as compared to their visit four years ago. Key batters like Mushfiqur Rahim, Litton Das and all-rounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz starred in the triumph over Pakistan. Litton and Miraz's tenacity – they rescued the side from 26 for six with a 165-run stand in the second Test – should give the squad confidence.

On the bowling front, Bangladesh will feel it has the right mix of pace and spin to counter Rohit Sharma's men on any type of surface. In the second Test against Pakistan, the pace trio of Taskin Ahmed, Nahid Rana and Hasan Mahmud took all 10 wickets in the second essay while off-spinner Miraz finished with a series-high 10 scalps.

Prior to its journey to India, the team had a camp in Mirpur. The Tigers slogged out in the hot sun for over three hours during their first practice session at the MAC Stadium on Monday. Skipper Shanto and opener Zakir Hasan were among the first to have long batting sessions against pace and spin. All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, who was playing for Surrey, is expected to join the squad on Tuesday.

In the morning, India had its third training session in four days. With the match expected to be played on a red-soil pitch, the home team trained on a track of similar nature which offered good bounce and carry for the pacers. The batters fine-tuned their sweeps and reverse sweeps. While Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and K.L. Rahul looked in fine touch, Yashasvi Jaiswal played and missed while facing the likes of Jasprit Bumrah and Akash Deep.

In 2019, India had laid out seamer-friendly strips in Indore and Kolkata (day-night Test), where the quicks took 33 out of the 40 wickets and the host recorded innings wins. That strategy could be employed again.

I got my chances and have done well, says Kamboj

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
ANANTAPUR

Special one: Kamboj, who took eight wickets for India-C, was delighted with the wicket of Sarfaraz. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Medium-pacer Anshul Kamboj (23) was both surprised and hopeful when he was named in the India-C squad for the Duleep Trophy.

"I was not hoping for that (Duleep Trophy call-up), because I've done well in white-ball cricket. Red ball was not good for me last year. But (after selection) I was hoping that maybe I will come in (into the XI) and play. I got my chances and I have done well," he said, after his team's second-round match against India-B on Sunday.

It was his eight for 69, his maiden First Class five-for, that helped India-C secure a big first-innings lead. He was adjudged the Player-of-the-Match.

What made this bowling effort even more special was that it came on a batting wicket, after the team lost its pace spearhead Sandeep Warrier to a hamstring injury. Kamboj and Vijaykumar Vyshak had to bear the extra workload in Warrier's absence. He had come into the tournament having played just 13 First Class matches

"Actually, not much was happening for the bowlers on this wicket. So, I bowled in front of them (the batters), so that I had the chance to get lbw and bowled dismissals," he said.

Asked if there is one dismissal that he was happy about, he said: "Saifu bhaiyya (Sarfaraz Khan). He is one of the best, has scored a lot of runs in the domestic circuit."

India-B skipper and opener Abhimanyu Easwaran, who carried his bat with an unbeaten 157 (286b, 14x4, 1x6), felt good about having been able to bat for a long time since he came into the tournament after recovering from a hamstring injury.

"I was at the NCA for about two and a half months, and then I went to my Bengal team's camp. There, I batted and basically the preparation was just getting into match zone. I also played a practice match.

"To be able to bat for a long period after my injury was good. I really enjoyed spending time in the middle, and I think it'll give me confidence for the next game as well," he said.

Key victory: Divya's win proved decisive for India in round six. FIDE

India men, women move into sole lead

CHESS OLYMPIAD

Sports Bureau

The opposition is getting stronger for India at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest, but the men's and women's teams don't seem to mind. In the sixth round on Monday, the second-seeded men beat host Hungary 3-1, while the top-seeded women defeated Armenia 2.5-1.5. Having won all matches, India took the sole lead in both the sections going into the rest day.

It was Arjun Erigaisi who once again played a key role for the men. After D. Gukesh and R. Praggnanandhaa drew on the top two boards, with Richard Rapport and Peter Leko respectively, India needed a win on the third board. Arjun obliged with his sixth win in as many games by outwitting Sanan Sjugirov. Vidit Gujrathi won against Benjamin Gledura.

Divya Deshmukh's win over Elina Danielian on the third board made the difference. On the top board, D. Harikia was held to a draw by Lilit Mkrtchian and R. Vaishali, too, drew with Mariam Mkrtchyan on the second. It was a draw in the fourth-board encounter between Tania Sachdev and Anna Sargsyan as well.

Super sub Ajaraie scores as NEUFC pips Mohammedan

ISL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Late strike: Ajaraie, left, broke Mohammedan SC hearts with an injury-time goal. DEBASISH BHADURI

Super sub Alaeddine Ajaraie found the target in injury-time as NorthEast United FC prevailed over debutant Mohammedan SC by a solitary goal in their ISL match at the Kishore Bharati Stadium here on Monday.

Mohammedan, which defended well and also created a few opportunities, saw its maiden league contest end in a heartbreak as Ajaraie struck late.

The opening period was a battle between the Mohammedan defence and NorthEast attack.

The visitors had an early chance but could not cause any damage as striker Guillermo Fernandez's left-footer went wide.

Mohammedan lacked sharpness in the transition stage and looked hesitant in the attacking third.

It was NEUFC which came close to scoring in the 36th minute but the opportunity went abegging as midfielder M.S. Jithin was off-target.

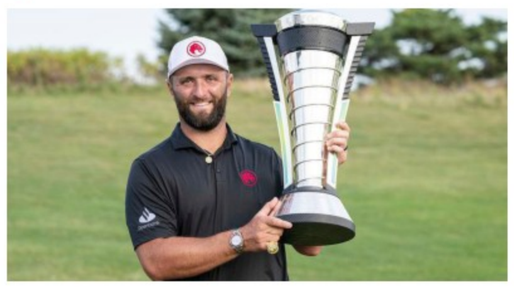
The change of ends did not alter things as Mohammedan continued to be defensive. The few incursions it managed did not work well.

NEUFC was determined to prove that its Durand Cup triumph was no flash in the pan, but was kept at bay by a resolute home defence till the fourth minute of extra-time.

However, the match turned on its head when Ajaraie fired home a Thoi Singh assist to secure full points for the Highlanders.

The result: Mohammedan SC 0 lost to NorthEast United FC 1 (Ajaraie 90+4).
Tuesday's match: FC Goa vs. Jamshedpur FC.

INBRIEF



Rahm lands a bonanza at LIV Golf Chicago

Jon Rahm captured two titles on Sunday, winning the 2024 LIV Golf League individual championship with his victory at LIV Golf Chicago. The Spaniard, in his first year on the tour, collected his second tournament victory this season to earn $4 million and also collected $18 million prize for the season points crown. India's Anirban Lahiri secure a tied-sixth finish.

Barcelona loses Olmo for a month with hamstring injury

Barcelona forward Dani Olmo has been sidelined for up to five weeks after injuring his right hamstring in the match against Girona, the LaLiga club said on Monday. The 26-year-old Spanish international, who joined from RB Leipzig for €55 million ($61 million), has scored in all three of his appearances for Barcelona including the match against Girona.

USA defeats Europe to win first Solheim Cup since 2017

Second-ranked Lilia Vu captured the deciding half-point and the United States defeated Europe 15.5-12.5 on Sunday to win the Solheim Cup golf for the first time since 2017.

LIVE TELECAST

Hockey: Asian Champions Trophy, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1 & 3.30 p.m.

ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.

LaLiga: gxr.world, 10.30 p.m.

Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 10.15 p.m. & Sony Sports Ten 1, 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Decisive: Mota's header gave Monza the lead in the 81st minute. AP

Inter drops to second after draw at Monza

The defending champion is one point behind Napoli; Atletico Madrid cruises to a dominant 3-0 home win over Valencia in LaLiga

EURO LEAGUES

Reuters
MONZA

Champion Inter Milan was knocked off the Serie A summit on Sunday after it came from behind to play out a surprise 1-1 draw at lowly Monza.

Monza took the lead in the 81st minute through substitute forward Dany Mota, who headed the ball into the top corner before Denzel Dumfries levelled for Inter in the 88th from close range.

Inter, which drew at Genoa in its season opener followed by wins against Lecce and Atalanta, dropped to second in the table with eight points after four games. It is one point behind Napoli, which beat Cagliari 4-0

Meanwhile, Atletico Madrid cruised to a convincing 3-0 home win over bottom side Valencia on Sunday in LaLiga thanks to goals from Conor Gallagher, Antoine Griezmann and Julian Alvarez.

Marcos Llorente and Samuel Lino went close in the first half before Atletico took the lead in the 39th minute when new signing Gallagher finished into the bottom corner after latching on to a delightful pass from Rodrigo De Paul that was slipped through the legs of defender Cristhian Mosquera.

Valencia fought hard for an equaliser, with Javi Guerra's long-range effort going wide, but it was unable to prevent Griezmann from finding the net after Lino's header fell into his path nine minutes after the break.

Icing on the cake

Another new recruit, Alvarez, put the icing on the cake with his first goal in the Spanish top flight after joining from Manchester City, when he slotted home Rodrigo Riquelme's cross in the 93rd minute.

Atletico, which is unbeaten this season, moved into second place, level on 11 points with Real Madrid and four behind leader Barcelona.

The results:

LaLiga: Atletico Madrid 3 (Gallagher 39, Griezmann 54, Alvarez 90+4) bt Valencia 0.

Serie A: Monza 1 (Mota 81) drew with Inter Milan 1 (Dumfries 88).

Coe among seven candidates in fray to succeed Bach as IOC president

Reuters

Eyeing the big job: Coe and Samaranch. FILE PHOTOS

World athletics chief Sebastian Coe, multi-millionaire and Olympic newcomer Johan Eliasch and Zimbabwe's Sports Minister Kirsty Coventry are among seven candidates for next year's International Olympic Committee presidency election, the IOC said on Monday.

IOC vice president Juan Antonio Samaranch, son of the late former IOC president, international cycling chief David Lappartient, Prince Feisal Al Hussein of Jordan and international gymnastics federation head Morinari Watanabe are also in the running to succeed Thomas Bach.

The 70-year-old German is stepping down next year after 12 years at the helm. The election will be held at the IOC session in ancient Olympia, Greece in March 2025. The president is elected to an eight-year first term with the possibility of a second term of four years, if re-elected.

The IOC, with 111 members currently, is in charge of the Olympic Games and the multi-billion dollar industry linked to the world's biggest multi-sports event.

Bach's departure comes with the organisation in a financially robust position, having secured $7.3 billion for the years 2025-28 and $6.2 billion already in deals for 2029-2032.

Paras bowls KSCA President's XI to a thumping win

CRICKET

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Paras Gurbax Arya (6/35) powered KSCA President's XI to a 290-run win over Tamil Nadu CA in the KSCA-Dr. Capt. K. Thimmappiah memorial tournament here.

The scores:

At Bengaluru: KSCA President's XI 330 and 211/7 decl. in 47.4 overs (Abhinav Manohar 58, Manvanth Kumar 35, P. Vidyuth 3/39) bt Tamil Nadu CA 145 and 106 in 34 overs (G. Ajitesh 57, Paras Gurbax Arya 6/35).

KSCA XI 103 and 121 in 30.4 overs (R. Smaran 58, Rutvik Naik 4/46, Arjun Tendulkar 4/55) lost to Goa CA 413.

Madhya Pradesh CA 360 and 169 in 52.4 overs (Sagar Solanki 77, Aryan Pandey 30, Ajay Mandal 5/45) vs. Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh 164 in 63.5 overs (Ajay Mandal 26, Kulwant Khejroliya 5/38, Shubham Sharma 3/30).

Mumbai CA 440 and 11 for no loss in 11 overs vs. KSCA Secretary's XI 531 in 144.5 overs (E.J. Jasper 167, Luvnith Sisodia 187, K.L. Shrijith 42, Yashovardhan Parantap 26, Juned Khan 3/89, Atharva Ankolekar 3/98).

Maharashtra CA 158 and 345 in 77.2 overs (Siddhesh Veer 33, Harsh Duney 5/113) bt Vidarbha CA 174 and 136 in 35.2 overs (Shubham Dubey 27, Ramkrishan Ghosh 3/23, Hitesh Walunj 5/48).

Gujarat CA 235 and 188 in 64.5 overs (Arya Rathod 54, Saral Prajapati 43, Rafi 3/32, Vinay Kumar 3/29) bt Andhra CA 159 and 136 in 39 overs (Vamsi Krishna 34, Vinay Kumar 33, Bhavya Chauhan 3/27, Shen Patel 3/59).

At Mysuru: KSCA Colts 202 and 280 in 66.5 overs (Harshil Dharmani 55, Shubhang Hegde 40, Dheeraj Gowda 64, Dhanush Gowda 28, Bhargav Bhatt 5/89, Mahesh Pithiya 3/82) lost to Baroda CA 330 and 156/2 in 38.5 overs (Kinit Patel 71, Sukirt Pandey 60 n.o.).

Dr. DY Patil CA 262 and 308 in 87.2 overs (Ayaz Khan 111, Ayush Badoni 26, Abdul Samad 33, Sunil Roul 3/38) vs. Odisha CA 283 and 79/2 in 32 overs (Shantanu Mishra 44 n.o.).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Samit Dravid in Ranji probables

BENGALURU: Samit Dravid, son of former India captain Rahul Dravid, has been picked in the Karnataka probables list for the Ranji Trophy 2024-25 season.

All-rounder Samit is among the 36 players in the list, which will be pruned closer to the start of the tournament.

He most recently featured for Mysore Warriors in Maharaja Cup T20 tournament. He batted in the top-order, but did not bowl his seamers.

All-rounder Shreyas Gopal, who returned to Karnataka after competing for Kerala in the previous season, has been included in the probables.

The Ranji Trophy commences on October 11.

The probables: Mayank Agarwal, K.L. Rahul, Devdutt Padikkal, Prasidh Krishna, Vidwath Kaverappa, Manish Pandey, V. Vyshak, Nikin Jose, R. Smaran, Kishan Bedare, K.V. Aneesh, Sharath Srinivas, Sujay Sateri, Kruthik Krishna, V. Koushik, Vidyadhar Patil, Abhilash Shetty, M. Venkatesh, Shreyas Gopal, Hardik Raj, Shubhang Hegde, Rohit

Samit.

Kumar, Dheeraj Gowda, Mohsin Khan, K. Shashikumar, Adhoksh Hegde, Shikhar Shetty, Yashovardhan Parantap, Vishal Onat, E.J. Jasper, Samit Dravid, K.P. Karthikeya, Samarth Nagaraj, Luvnith Sisodia, L.R. Chethan, Abhinav Manohar.

Coach: Yere Goud; **bowling coach:** Mansur Ali Khan; **fielding coach:** Shabarish Mohan

Four more meet records set on day three

MYSURU: Meet records were set in the men's U-23 section by K. Lokesh from Yadgir (1500m), Sachin from Koppal (Hammer throw), Yashas R. Gowda from Mysore (Triple jump) and A. Nagendra from Dakshina Kannada (Discus), on the third and penultimate day of the Karnataka State inter-district junior and U-23 athletics, conducted by MDAA, on Monday.

K. Lokesh (Yadgir, u-23 1500m).

Sachin (Koppal, u-23 hammer).

The results (winners only):

Men: U-23: 1500m: K. Lokesh (Yadgir, 3:58.23, NMR, Old: 4:00.70s, B.L. Shashidhar, 2023); **triple jump:** Yashas R. Gowda (Mys, 15.00m, NMR, Old: 14.82m, B. Mahanth, 2021); **hammer throw:** Sachin (Koppal, 57.24m, NMR, Old: 55.33m, Sachin, 2023); **110m hurdles:** Advith D. Shetty (DK, 15.21s); **discus:** A. Nagendra (DK, 50.83m, NMR, Old: 50.20m, S.A. Muhammed, 2022).

Boys: U-20: 1500m: Krishna Rathod (Vijayapura, 4:07.17s); **10km race walk:** 1. B. Darshan (DK, 51:34.98s); **triple jump:** S. Punith (Kodagu, 14.50m); **hammer throw:** K.Yashas Praveen (UK, 60.68m); **110m hurdles:** K.R. Tejal (DK, 15.05s).

U-18: Javelin: Shubham Suresh (Belagavi, 60.60m); **110m hurdles:** S. Chandan (B'luru Rural, 15.06s).

U-16: Long jump: Aditya Yadav (DK, 4.37m).

Women: U-23: 1500m: P. Rekha Basappa (DK, 5:00.80s); **javelin:** S.M. Sinchana (DK, 37.32m); **hammer throw:** D.Nishel Delphina (DK, 45.90m); **100m hurdles:** R. Deekshitha (DK, 14.95s).

U-20: 1500m: Vaishnavi Rawal (Belagavi, 4:45.06s); **10km race walk:** Ambika Koli (DK, 59:36.77s); **hammer throw:** Spruha Naik (Belagavi, 41.68m); **100m hurdles:** N. Apurva Anand (Belagavi, 15.64s); **javelin:** S.M. Sinchana (DK, 37.32m); **triple jump:** K.N. Bhumika (Shivamogga, 11.86m).

U-18: 100m hurdles: R. Isha Elizabeth (B'luru, 14.63s); **long jump:** Divija Bharadwaj (Mys, 5.02m).

U-16: Shot put: M. Reddy Sanjana (Mys, 11.15m); **high jump:** Rakshitha (DK, 1.42m).

West Brook obliges in the Silver Jet Plate

HYDERABAD: Trainer S.S. Attaollahi's filly West Brook, ridden by Akshay Kumar, claimed the Silver Jet Plate, the main event of Monday's (Sept. 16) races.

The winner is owned by Mr. D.R. Thacker rep. DT Racing & Breeders LLP & Mr. Mukul Sonawala. Akshay Kumar rode two more winners on the day.

1. NAGARKURNOOL PLATE: INDERDHANUSH (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Pancho (Mukesh) 2, Assured Success (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Star Medal (Gaurav) 4. 6-1/4, 2 and 2. 1m, 7.82s. ₹33 (w), 10, 13 and 14 (p). SHP: 42, THP: 34, SHW: 16 and 21, FP: 124, Q: 66, Tanala: 298. Favourite: Inderdhanush. Owner: Mr. Narendra V. Shah. Trainer: A. Imran Khan.

2. ROCK OF GIBRALTAR PLATE: ARION ONE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Jolly Jester (Md. Ismail) 2, Diablo (P. Sai K) 3 and The Pious (P. Ajeeth K) 4. 8-1/2, Head and 2-1/2. 1m, 13.65s. ₹23 (w), 11, 27 and 10 (p). SHP: 105, THP: 50, SHW: 11 and 37, FP: 344, Q: 220, Tanala: 966. Favourite: Diablo. Owners: M/s. Ashok Kumar Gupta, Rafaat Hussain, Rama Seshu Eunni, Balam Mohla & Vishal Gupta. Trainer: N. Ravinder Singh.

3. NELSTON PLATE (DIV. I): ALCAHOL FREE (Rafique Sk.) 1, Quality Warrior (Shivansh) 2, Shadow Baby (Yash Narredu) 3 and D Right Time (Deepak) 4. Not run: Hoping Star. Short Head, 2-1/4 and 5-1/4. 1m, 28.58s. ₹28 (w), 13, 19 and 10 (p). SHP: 59, THP: 55, SHW: 17 and 23, FP: 275, Q: 177, Tanala: 578. Favourite: Shadow Baby. Owner: Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar. Trainer: B. Mukesh Kumar.

4. G. SUDHAKAR REDDY MEMORIAL CUP: PONTEFRACT (Shivansh) 1, Kalki (Kuldeep Sr.) 2, Knotty Senorita (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Worcester (Afroz K) 4. 1-2, 3-1/4 and 1/2. 1m, 14.09s. ₹39 (w), 13, 10 and 15 (p). SHP: 33, THP: 32, SHW: 23 and 13, FP: 126, Q: 41, Tanala: 283. Favourite: Kalki. Owners: Mr. Ayyadevara Srinivas, Mr. Bharat Venkat Epur & Mr. Shashidhar Kamineni. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

NOTE: *Hoping Sky (Mohit up) stopped galloping soon after the start and did not participate.*

5. SHIV KUMAR LAL MEMORIAL CUP: WALLOP AND GALLOP (P. Ajeeth K) 1, Barbet (Yash Narredu) 2, Lady Danger (B. Nikhil) 3 and Brooklyn Beauty (P. Sai K) 4. 1/2, 1/2 and 3/4. 1m, 41.10s. ₹98 (w), 24, 12 and 22 (p). SHP: 40, THP: 48, SHW: 31 and 15, FP: 706, Q: 168, Tanala: 2,521. Favourite: Barbet. Owner: Mr. Syed Nawaz Hussain. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

6. SILVER JET PLATE: WEST BROOK (Akshay Kumar) 1, Flytothestars (Trevor) 2, Hurricane Bay (Yash Narredu) 3 and Hugh Capet (Kuldeep Sr.) 4. Not run: Indian Sniper. 2-1/2, Short Head and 13-3/4. 1m, 54.16s. ₹15 (w), 11 and 13 (p). SHP: 30, THP: 32, SHW: 11 and 29, FP: 51, Q: 36, Tanala: 59. Favourite: West Brook. Owners: Mr. D.R. Thacker rep. DT Racing & Breeders LLP and Mr. Mukul Sonawala. Trainer: S.S. Attaollahi.

7. NELSTON PLATE (DIV. II): WINDSOR (Akshay Kumar) 1, See My Attitude (Yash Narredu) 2, Federer (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and Bold Beauty (Santosh Raj) 4. 2-1/4, 3-3/4 and 3-1/2. 1m, 28.31s. ₹23 (w), 11, 12 and 12 (p). SHP: 34, THP: 30, SHW: 18 and 12, FP: 50, Q: 22, Tanala: 78. Favourite: See My Attitude. Owner: Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy & Mr. Bharat Venkat Epur. Trainer: L. D' Silva.

Jackpot : 70%: ₹11,238 (44 tkts.) & 30%: 1,926 (110 tkts.).

Mini jackpot: (i) 7,998 (5 tkts.), (ii) 2,503 (37 tkts.). Treble: (i) 1,297 (28 tkts.), (ii) 428 (143 tkts.).

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

Ms Gunjan Mantri student from CHRIST who recently represented INDIA at the 3X3 U18 Basketball Championship.

Ms. Gunjan Mantri, a talented first year BA Psychology student from CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bengaluru, has added another significant achievement to her impressive sports career. Gunjan has been selected to represent India in the prestigious 3X3 U18 World Cup Basketball Championship held innDebrecen, Hungary, from August 26-30, 2024. Gunjan's selection journey was nothing short of intense. Gunjan is no stranger to success, having already built a stellar sporting record. Her previous achievements include Gold Medal at the Youth National Championship in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, in 2022, Bronze Medal at Khelo India, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, in 2023, 3rd Place at the Junior National Championship in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, in 2024. Gunjan Mantri's dedication and passion for basketball have made her a rising star in Indian sports, and her future holds even greater promise. The Department of Physical Education at CHRIST University, along with her fellow students and faculty, celebrates Gunjan's accomplishments and wishes her continued success in her sporting journey.

Kristu Jayanti's tribute to Colonial Imprints: Bangalore's evolution through History

Colonial Imprints: Bangalore's past through Historical Photographs" a photo exhibition, was organized by The Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) in association with the Department of History, KJC, the exhibition focused on understanding the impact and imprint of Bangalore's development through the years. It was inaugurated by Fr. Dr. Augustine George, Principal, KJC alongside the chief guest Dr. S.K Aruni, Regional Director, ICHR, South Regional Centre, Bengaluru. The exhibition showcased digital prints that seamlessly showed the transition of the city from the pre-colonial era to the post colonial era. It consisted of historical visuals of colonial architecture, military presence, social life and the city's development under British rule. These visuals were mainly sourced from the archives of ICHR and the British library. Dr S.K Advani took it upon himself to educate those present in the audience about the retrieved artifacts and their significance in understanding the era of their existence. The exhibition was part of a two-series event which aimed to create awareness and help understand the impact of Bangalore's history. Speaking on the inauguration Fr. Dr. Augustine George applauded the humility and excitement Dr. S.K Aruni showcased in sharing the history is remarkable. He also applauded this tremendous effort and contribution he has made to the society in his 25 years of experience. The second event of the occasion, a guest lecture, aimed to inform the students in attendance regarding the historical significance of Bangalore. Curated by Dr. S.K Aruni, the presentation exposed the students to images of various discovered artifacts, evidences and communities from an ancient Bengaluru city. The images ranged all the way from the paleolithic era to the colonial period, with special attention given to the geographical advantage the city has. Historical sites with remains from the paleolithic era, iron sites from the mesolithic era, and several other evidences of early settlements in and around Bengaluru were highlighted in the presentation.

One day workshop on Environment and Green Energy, Paryavaran 2024 at Ramaiah Institute of Technology

On the eve of Sir M Visvesvaraya's birthday which is celebrated as Engineer's day every year on 15th September, the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE), Bengaluru chapter and Gokula Education foundation, Bengaluru organized a one day workshop on Environment and Green Energy, Paryavaran 2024 at RIT, Bengaluru. The program was inaugurated by VC, Gokula Education Foundation, Former Cabinet Minister, GoK & Present Member of Legislative Council, GoK, DR. M R Seetharam and the guests of honor included Padmavibushana Dr. VK Aatre, Former SA to RM, GoI & Former Secretary, DRDO and Prof. Natraja Karaba N, Professor & Head, Department of Crop Physiology, University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, Bengaluru. The other dignitaries included INAE, Bangalore chapter President Prof. Gopalakrishnan S and Dr. NVR Naidu, Principal RIT. The function was graced by other INAE members and eminent personalities from Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. During the inaugural function, the guests of honor, emphasized the need to protect the planet and how even small acts would lead a long way to sustainable development. Dr. M R Seetharam emphasized the sustainability efforts taken by Ramaiah Institutions towards protecting the environment. The inaugural function was followed by technical talks by eminent scientists like Prof. KN Ganeshaiah, INSA Senior Scientist, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding , UAS, GKVK, Bangalore, Prof MN Thimmegowda , UAS, GKVK and Prof T V Ramachandra from Indian Institute of Science. The day long program also included paper and poster presentations by students from across 9 engineering colleges in Bangalore and Mysore. A total of 4 cash prizes were awarded to the students in the paper and poster category.

Garden City University, School of Media Studies Hosts Interactive Session on "Print Media in the Digital Era"

The School of Media Studies at Garden City University organized an insightful and interactive session titled "Print Media in the Digital Era" with B. Pradeep Nair, News Editor of The Hindu. The session explored the evolving role of print media in the digital age and offered students a unique opportunity to engage with an experienced industry professional. During the session, B. Pradeep Nair discussed the challenges and opportunities faced by traditional print media in a rapidly changing digital landscape. He emphasized the importance of journalistic ethics, the role of social media in news dissemination, and the need for adaptable skill sets in today's media industry. The interactive format of the session encouraged students to ask questions and participate in discussions on how digital platforms have transformed the way news is consumed, produced, and shared. B. Pradeep Nair also shared his experiences working in print journalism and the evolving responsibilities of news editors in the current media environment. The event was attended by students and faculty from the School of Media Studies, who appreciated the valuable insights and practical knowledge shared by the guest speaker. Garden City University, located in Bangalore, is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of media professionals through its School of Media Studies. The university emphasizes practical learning and industry exposure to prepare students for successful careers in media and communication.